

Stuart Benjamin Ford

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A highly skilled web software architect and Linux systems engineer with extensive experience with large and complex web-based software systems based on the LAMP (with PHP) platform operating in B2C, B2B, Internet Service Provider, web, new media, technology, telecoms, corporate and commercial market sectors. Strong IT operational leadership with strategic project planning, documentation, implementation and management experience with a very keen eye for detail and commitment to standards.

Skills and Capabilities

Technical	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive PHP experience to version 5.2.9.• Zend Studio and Aptana Studio IDEs.• HTML and XHTML markup languages.• JavaScript, CSS and Ajax methods.• Extensive Linux experience (Slackware, CentOS and Red Hat Enterprise).• Mac OS X used as primary operating system and development environment.• XML, XSL and XSL-FO (using Apache FOP).• Apache HTTP server administration.• SQL based relational databases (MySQL and MS SQL Server).• MS Windows NT/2000/2003/2008 Server.• TCP/IP networks, LAN, WAN, wireless LAN, routing, network security and domain management.• Asterisk PBX and related VoIP technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industry standard technical documentation skills.• IT team and project management.• Datacentre planning, deployment and operations.• IT best practice methodologies.• ISO 9001 quality accreditation process.• Corporate network design methods.• System support analysis.• Capital and overhead budgets.• Business-aligned IT strategies.• Presentation and visualisation skills.

Professional Experience

January 2009 to present: Senior Consultant, Heddon Consulting Ltd.

I am currently engaged in a number of web software projects and other technical consultancy contracts for this small consultancy firm whilst progressively expanding and improving on my skill set.

In September 2010 I start a full time MSc course in Advanced Computer Science and Applications at the University of Warwick and intend to continue with this work for the duration of the course. I am therefore ideally suited to freelance, consultancy and contract work at this time rather than permanent positions that require a full-time presence.

July 2007 to January 2009: Chief Technical Officer, Zimo Communications Ltd.

Responsible for design, development and deployment of new VOIP call management platform and company-wide IT policy and systems.

- Appointed as Chief Technical Officer to control IT and technology issues for the company.
- Focused on the design and development of Asterisk and PHP based call management platform.
- Reported directly to the Chief Executive Officer, advising on business impact of technology and IT.
- Leadership, management and control of a multi-functional team of IT and technical support staff.
- Monitored technical performance, business requirements, systems, budgets, SLAs and KPIs.
- Managed extensive and strict documentation on all projects, processes and policies.
- Key role in relocation of the business to new premises, in addition to technology refresh of systems.

December 2003 to December 2006: Group Technical Director: Rhydio Group

Responsible for IT and technical management, including software development, infrastructure, systems, strategy and support within an ICT, software and Internet hosting business.

- Appointed as Group Technical Director to control IT and technology issues for the entire group.
- Focused on delivery of business-critical IT/IS services both internally and to external clients.
- Reported directly to the Managing Director, advising on business impact of technology and IT.
- Leadership, management and control of a multi-functional team of IT and technical support staff.
- Monitored technical performance, business requirements, systems, budgets, SLAs and KPIs.
- Championed completion of enterprise-wide ISO 9001 quality certification and accreditation.
- Led deployment of a new business management system to support business expansion plans.
- Assumed direct responsibility for the final development and launch of 'RHYACS' software package.
- Responsible for all aspects of IT management, including development, software and service delivery.
- Focused on definition of standards, policies, strategies and protocols to support long-term growth.
- Monitored operational performance, systems capacity, bespoke development and budgets.
- Recruitment, appraisal, training, development and coaching of key business support personnel.
- Successfully advised board on establishing Rhydio Communications to expand into telecoms sector.
- Key role in relocation of the business to new premises, in addition to technology refresh of systems.
- Led an enterprise-wide overhaul of group technology and infrastructure as part of expansion plans.

December 2001 to December 2003: Head Developer: Rhydio Ltd.

- Responsible for software development, working with key clients within an ICT solutions business.
- Appointed to key role to supervise and control a team of Junior Developers and support personnel.
- Focused on the effective completion of contract project work, working with a portfolio of clients.
- Delivered IT solutions for clients in sectors including wholesaling and property development.
- Project planning, analysis, development, implementation and resource deployment management.

August 2000 to November 2001: Senior Developer, Livenue.com (Fluid.tv) Ltd.

- Responsible for software development within an online exhibitions and web technology business.
- Appointed to Senior Developer role following successful completion of a number of key projects.
- Focused on development of software and systems to support major events and exhibitions.
- Leadership, management and motivation of a multi-functional team of up to 3 developers.
- Acted as Senior Technical Consultant to the parent group, including advising on technology.
- Project planning, analysis, development, implementation and resource deployment management.

August 1997 to August 2000: Administrator / Developer, Vossnet (UK) Ltd.

Internal systems administrator and web software developer for this local Internet Service Provider based in Slough, Berkshire. I acquired many foundation skills here. My tenure here was interrupted by returning to university to complete the final year of my course.

Education, Qualifications and Accreditations

- Chartered IT Professional Qualification (in progress).
- MBCS (Member of the British Computer Society).
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.
- 'A' levels in Business Studies, French and Geography.
- 10 GCSE qualifications – Fullbrook County Secondary School, Surrey.
- Starting an MSc course in Advanced Computer Science and IT Management at the University of Manchester in September 2010.

Personal Information

Nationality British.

Residency Full UK.

Working area Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire.

Driving license Full UK, clean. I have my own car.