

SAM SMITH

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Software developer with over 5 years of commercial experience and breadth of skills. Good domain specific knowledge from a variety of industries in addition to technical skills.

Strong communication skills: experienced at interacting with a range of technical and nontechnical people of different levels of seniority including suppliers and customers.

Committed to good technical practices including continuous integration and test-driven development.

Experience of working in a range of organisations from start-ups to blue chip corporates.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages

Erlang, Go, Java, Node.js, Objective-C, Python, Swift.

Databases

NoSQL: CouchDB/Cloudant; SQL: SQLite, PostgreSQL, MySQL.

Development

Git, GitHub, Jenkins/Groovy, JIRA, Travis, Gradle, Maven.

Operating Systems / IDEs

Development on Linux, UNIX, macOS, using Emacs, Xcode, Visual Studio, IntelliJ IDEA, Android Studio, Eclipse.

Infrastructure

AWS, Docker, IBM Cloud, Softlayer, VirtualBox VMs.

Configuration Management

Chef, Puppet.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

IBM, Bristol

Apr 2016 – (present)

Software Developer (Band 8)

A permanent role with IBM after their acquisition of Cloudant. The key focus being the development of client libraries and sync libraries. These open-source libraries are intended to lower the barrier to entry for potential users by providing a fluent and idiomatic API to Cloudant for a given programming language. Specifically, client libraries provide CRUD access by executing HTTP REST requests. Layered on top of this are extra facilities transparently providing such as authentication, (de)serialisation, connection pooling, logging, and retrying failed requests. Supported languages include Java, Swift, Python, and Node.js.

Sync libraries make use of the CouchDB replication protocol to provide masterless two-way synchronisation between a local SQLite database and a remote Cloudant instance. Currently available on iOS/macOS and Android/JavaSE these libraries are ideal in mobile environments or where network connectivity is limited.

Writing open source-software brought a new set of challenges for me: conducting code reviews in the open, prioritising internal and external feature requests, and publishing releases. All libraries have a comprehensive CI pipeline in Jenkins to ensure the quality of builds and releases. To provide external visibility of build status, many libraries also have other CI configured such as Travis. This also allows us to accept pull requests without having to make our full build and release process public. Additional issues unique to developing libraries include API design, clear documentation, adherence to semantic versioning, and deprecation and removal of features.

Cloudant, Bristol*Oct 2013 – Apr 2016**Operations Engineer*

Cloudant delivered a NoSQL database-as-a-service product which was based on the the open source Apache CouchDB project. I worked within the operations team managing the service platform to a high level of availability. Key responsibilities included:

- Monitoring and maintaining distributed systems and networks.
- Resolving problems, determining root cause and business impact, proposing long term prevention, and reporting on those activities.
- Prioritising problem fixes effectively based on business value, risk, urgency, and level of effort.
- Working closely with the Customer Support team to resolve live incidents.

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Taunton*Jan 2011 – Oct 2013**Software Test Analyst*

The UKHO provide nautical charts and navigational services of the world's oceans and ports to support world shipping, including the Royal Navy. Key responsibilities included:

- Designing, developing, and executing test plans and test cases for various projects with experience using both agile and waterfall methodology.
- To co-ordinate re-testing of defects and issues either through 'at desk' re-tests by business test representatives or via walkthroughs with third-party providers.
- To prepare and maintain relevant test documentation, including test scripts, activity schedules, narrative and written reports, and visual progress charts.
- To liaise with and assist each line of business regarding the test planning, testing activity, and test results analysis.

EDUCATION

University of Exeter*Sep 2007 – Jun 2010*

B.Sc. (Hons) in Mathematics (2:2)

Richard Huish College, Taunton*Sep 2005 – Jun 2007*

A-Levels: Computing (A), Mathematics (A), Business Studies (C)

REFERENCES

References and letters of recommendation available on request.