

ROB BOWLEY

Software Craftsman/Agile Coach

Contact Details

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Core Strengths

Experience

7-8 years successfully delivering software as a programmer and team leader in the Digital/Online sphere mainly in C#.Net, but happy to dabble in whatever is needed to get the job done.

Passion

An active member of the software development community. Regularly attends and contributes to community events having recently run sessions at [XPDay](#) 2008 and will be running two at the upcoming [SPA2009](#) conference in April.

Leadership

Very comfortable and experienced at successfully leading and motivating teams and communities with a passion for delivery whilst ensuring optimum quality and value for money. A confident and charismatic communicator able to collaborate with all areas of the business, from explaining professional software practices and their benefits to gathering requirements and driving strategy.

Agile

An experienced and evangelical Agile practitioner having seen the often dramatic improvements in productivity, motivation, quality and the ability to meet constantly changing customer requirements. Highly knowledgeable and able to train in all the Agile flavours (Scrum, Lean, Extreme Programming) including tools such as Kanban, Pair Programming, retrospectives, estimation and planning.

Test/Behaviour Driven Development

A self-confessed and unashamed (but also pragmatic) TDD/BDD zealot who believes all production code should be test driven. Also highly capable of getting legacy code (any code not covered by tests or designed for testability) under test.

Object Oriented Design and Refactoring

Firm believer in the SOLID principles and considers "Refactoring" by Martin Fowler to be the bible of modern day software development.

Employment History

Feb '07 – present

Lead Developer/Developer

**BBC Worldwide
White City
London**

Joined a team rebuilding the [Online Catalogue](#) (OLC) – a website used to market the BBC's programmes to commercial channels (Worldwide's core business). This was by far the largest, most sophisticated and most challenging project anyone on the team had been involved in taking over 18 months and £1.4 million to complete. The OLC team pioneered Scrum and Agile development practices which were consequently adopted by the entire department due to the dramatic improvements in productivity, motivation, code quality and our ability to react to constantly changing requirements. The site was released last April 2008 and since then I've been the Lead Developer on the OLC continuous delivery team (6 people).

All work undertaken is first defined in automated acceptance tests using the given/when/then format and all code written is entirely test driven.

However, the story at BBC Worldwide is much more than just the work on the OLC. I'm also a core member of the BBC's large developer community, regularly running presentations, DoJos and Goldfish Bowls on subjects ranging from unit testing to estimation and driving the adoption of Agile practices and better coding standards. Started and maintain a technical library which I regularly update and encourage colleagues to use.

Technologies: C# 3.5, NHibernate, NUnit, RhinoMocks, SOA, ASP.Net MVC, Cucumber, Watir, RSpec, Ruby, Lucene.Net, prototype.js, continuous integration with TeamCity and CruiseControl, source control with Subversion and Team Foundation Server.

Nov '05 – Mid-Dec '06 Career Break The World

With partner (now wife) travelled for 14 months, visiting Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Indian Subcontinent. As much as possible this was accomplished overland including all the way from London to Thailand via Russia & China.

Jan '04 – Nov '05 Team Leader/Senior Software Engineer The Lawn Tennis Assoc. Barons Court London

The LTA has progressed rapidly in the last few years and the administration of tennis in this country is now wholly dependent on its sophisticated IT infrastructure. The main gateway for communication and administration is now <http://www.lta.org.uk>. This is powered by a .Net(C#) SOA, communicating with Siebel CRM via web services and BizTalk which was all built during my tenure and I was involved in all stages of development. I first got into Unit Testing, TDD and refactoring during this time.

As team leader was responsible for overseeing a small team of developers, managing the rapid evolution of the application framework and was heavily involved in decision-making. Persuaded the LTA of the importance of usability and accessibility during the design process of the new website (launched March 2006), which played a significant part in the success of the project.

**Dec '02 – Dec '03 Senior Web Applications Developer Lycos UK Ltd
3 Sutton Lane, London
lycos.co.uk**

After working with the beta version for 9 months was promoted to developing web applications on the .Net Framework (C#). For most of this time I was personally responsible for a multi-language, pan-European version of Lycos Help (<http://help.lycos.co.uk>). The application entailed a complex SQL Server database, with most of the logic executed through stored procedures; a secure session-based login implemented through a custom control and I built user controls to generate the GUI. Seven local country teams operated the admin system.

Other examples of work on the .Net platform included a Celebrity Gossip channel, which consumed XML feeds into a SQL database and a film reviews channel using XML data provided by the BBC.

Jan '02 – Dec '02 Web Developer Lycos UK Ltd

Working mainly in PHP, SQL2000, XML and XSL I designed, built and supported a range of dynamic websites. These included The (original!) Viral Chart (<http://viral.lycos.co.uk>) (which received over 300,000 unique users per month), Lycos News (<http://news.lycos.co.uk>), Lycos Weather, an internal project management tool and many others. Most of these applications included administration systems enabling producers to update content, generate reports and change configuration.

Feb '01 – Jan '02 Web Master Lycos UK Ltd

As Web Master for Lycos UK it was my duty to ensure that all the Lycos websites were maintained to the high standards required for a major web portal. I developed and supported websites built with XHTML, CSS, JavaScript and PHP, helped producers with any related technical queries including improving their knowledge of HTML and JavaScript and was responsible for browser compatibility and the page weight of the principle Lycos site.

Jan '00 – Feb '01

Web Research Analyst

The Local Channel
thelocalchannel.co.uk

A mainly researched-based role to investigate the viability of creating a network of websites for every village and town in the U.K. During my involvement, I built a database to be operated in conjunction with search engines, developed promotional literature and took part in research, surveys and sales. I also constructed a series of portal-style websites to present to potential investors. The website is now nationwide.

Jul '00 – Dec '00

Web Editor / Content Manager

NetCommerce Ltd
5 Town Quay,
Southampton

I was jointly responsible for all the content on www.ShopsOnTheNet.com, which involved writing editorial and features, promoting the site and planning the layout of the pages. As well as building and sustaining relationships with content partners and affiliates I wrote sales procedures and media packs, so I had quite a significant role in the company as a whole.

Previous:

Between university and my first job in the Internet industry I spent nine months temping at a pensions company in Salisbury. For my placement year at university I worked as a manager in a hotel in Devon. I was responsible for around 30 members of staff and the day-to-day running of the hotel.

Training & Education

2008 Agile Estimating & Planning

2007 Certified Scrum Master

2003 Microsoft Application Developer

1996 - 1999 The Nottingham Business School BA (H) Business and Quality Management 2:2

1994 - 1996 Peter Symonds' College, Winchester 3 'A' levels

1989 - 1994 Test Valley Comprehensive 9 GCSEs

Interests & Activities

I consider myself to be a very active person who likes to participate in most sports/activities, particularly tennis, football, cycling and hiking. I've recently got into climbing as well. My other interests include literature, art, music, photography and current affairs

Referees available on request