

Ken Birch – Resume Extract June 2020

Personal Details

Name: Ken Birch – Ken Birch Design Ltd.

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Telephone: 020-8286-4074 (24hr) 07588 650 153 (mobile).

Job Title: **Contract** Web Application Developer/Architect; C#, ASP.net and SQL.

Preferred Locations: Local or central London (1 hour commute); overseas by arrangement.

Qualifications: B.Sc. (Hon.) Electronics, London University: O-Level English: A-Level Maths.

Job Skills

Recent Skills

C# ASP.net Core 2.2/3.1, using Razor-Pages, MVC and API. EF 5 and Core 3 with Linq and SQL. Azure Dev-Ops, App-Service and SQL Databases. Web-site design and development, with Azure deployment. Blazor, and WPF Core 3.

Tech-List (overlapping periods)

C# ASP.net Core	(Razor-Pages, MVC, and API; Core 2.2/3.0, EF Core 3)	14 months
C#.net	(dotnet, Linq, applications and internet)	10 years
ASP.net	(web-forms, MVC and API)	12 years
VB.net	(Win-Apps; VB6 conversions)	2 years
Web-Sites by Microsoft	(C#, ASP.net, VB.net, MVC, JSON, JQuery, IIS, T-SQL, EF, Azure)	14 years
Data-SQL	(mainly T-SQL; EF 5/Core, Linq; Admin and Sys-Op functions)	20 years
Web Back-End	(SOA, Micro-Services, MCF, REST, API, JSON, SQL, LINQ, EF)	7 years
Web Front-End	(JavaScript, JQuery, HTML, CSS; some Type-Script AngularJS/5)	3 years
Applications (intranet / Win-forms) RAD – SSADM, Agile, C#, T-SQL, SOA, Micro-Services, REST, API		7 years

Areas of Expertise

Dev-Ops Tool-Chain: Visual Studio Tools, TFS, Vault VCS, Fortress ALM, Git, SharePoint, Spiceworks, JIRA, Azure.

Legacy Systems: The encapsulation and refactoring of legacy code for further development or replacement.

Web and Intranet: Visual-Studio, ASP.net (web-forms and MVC-5), C#, VB, JavaScript, CSS, Flash, MV*, IIS and AJAX.

Mobile Applications: Support and Development, Web-Services, C#, JSON conversion, REST, API and MCF.

Databases: Applications, Ms-SQL(2k3-2k16), T-SQL, LINQ, EF 5/Core, Access, MySQL; Web or PC. Server Admin.

Rapid Application Development (RAD-SSADM): user interface requirements; business rules; object-oriented design; entity life histories, systems analysis. Involving feasibility studies, prototyping, production and release management.

Agile Development: rapid delivery of useful software, working software delivered frequently; handle changing requirements, adaptation to changing circumstances; using TDD, BDD and DDD; CD and CI with SCRUM; SDLC.

Engineering: Real-time Control systems, Broadcast Video systems, Documentation and Training, Coding and Design standards, Version Control initiation and use, Commissioning, Integration, System Testing, Overseas Installation, Format conversions and parsers, e-Commerce, Banking, Financials, user security and encryption, MoD work. Communication standards, using both low-level RS-232, RS-422, RS-485; and high-level UDP, TCP/IP.

References (viewable at http://www.kenbirchdesign.com/KB_CV.html)

Rodrigo Marques my boss at Acute-Art, 'rodrigo@acuteart.com'; Acute Art, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LA.

Colin Law my boss at SDG, 'colin.law@stanleydavis.co.uk'; Stanley Davis Group, 1 George Yard, City, London EC3V.

Waqas Salahuddin my boss at 'Fred's', 'waqas.salahuddin@outlook.com'; now IT Development Manager at H&T Group

Jonathan Dudley my team leader at 'Fred's', 'jonathan.dudley@gmail.com'; now Senior Developer at Intelliflo.

Ian Pemberton, 'ian@humanfocus.co.uk'; MD at Human Focus International, 41 London Road, Reigate Surrey RH2.

Project Highlights

Acute Art April 2020 – June 2020 (fixed term contract)

Web-site '<https://www.acuteart.com>'; prototype web-site '<https://acutecollectorweb.azurewebsites.net>'.

Replacement Web-Site

The company's recently commissioned web-site using Word-Press and Woo-Commerce was deemed not fit for purpose. I was engaged to provide a ASP.net core replacement. Acute Art is a company engaged in the production, display and sales of Artistic Images, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality.

Created a web-site using ASP.net Core 3.1 Razor Pages. Azure Dev/Pro code repository, with CI/CD to Azure Web-sites. Included Web-API controllers and Micro-Service modules. Used 'screen scraping' on current WP web-site to provide the navigation and look and feel. Extensive set of data models, Entity Attribute and Metadata tables. The 'Stripe' card payments system, using web-hooks and Checkout. Worked remotely with video-meetings and work review documents. Extensive support documents of design, data-models and flowcharts. A fixed term contract, producing a fully functional web-site to be finished off by the permanent staff.

Artwork Edition Sales and Tranche Releasing

Web-pages for the release of Artwork Numbered Editions and the purchase thereof. Using the Stripe Checkout system with a web-API and Service module. Some 'special' customers purchase Numbered Editions prior to their release.

On-Site Artwork Edition Re-Sale Auctioning

Web-pages for re-sale of Numbered Editions to Customers. A timed auction spread over a few days with bids being collected and then reconciled at the end of the Auction, the Winning Bid was then processed. The reconciliation processing was a Midnight-Run web-API, Operating System Task; via Service module logic and payments processing.

Used Stripe Checkout to collect bids with Authenticate and Hold plus Payment collection for the successful bidder.

Stanley Davis Group November 2019 – February 2020 (fixed-price Contract)

Web-site '<https://www.stanleydavis.co.uk>'. See below for company description.

Questionnaire Sub-System -

I was asked by my former boss to create a prototype web-site using C# dotnet Core on the Azure cloud platform. To contain a 'Customer Satisfaction Survey' sub-system; with a Questionnaire builder, Metrics and Downloader. To prepare the company to convert their web-sites for hosting on the Azure Cloud app-services. This project was implemented using C# ASP.net Core 3.0, Razor-Pages, EF Core 3.0 and the OAuth User Identity sub-system. Azure DevOps was used as the repository, and CI/CD processes. Azure Portal for the Web-Site using App-Service and Azure-SQL. All styling is to be performed by the in-house specialists.

I produced a Proof-of-Concept web-site using C# ASP.net Core 3.0; using Azure DevOps repository with an App-Service on Azure Portal. This was discussed and then augmented to include User Identity sign-on using SQL service on Azure Portal. The part working PoC was then discussed with stakeholders and the project continued. The prototype PoC web-site and documentation was delivered to help implementing Azure Cloud services.

To view the prototype web-site, use the URL '<https://kbd2.azurewebsites.net>'.

Fredrickson International Limited October 2017 – February 2019 (Contract Role)

Job title: Contract Software Developer. Full SDLC in an agile environment using TFS, BDD and GIRA.

'Fredrickson International Limited' aka 'Fred's', is a debt collection agency, and part of the Lowell Group. 'Fred's' is involved in the collection of outstanding debt of customers, for a number of clients. A large number of telephone support personnel (circa 140) using the 'CFE' application, as well as a number of Administration personnel (circa 40) using the 'AFE' application. There is also a customer web-site, to allow self-management of their debt (www.freds.com). 'Fred's' IT department contained over 40 personnel. This company site-location has been run-down and closed due to business re-orientation, with all operations transferred to Leeds. Web-site '<https://www.fredpay.com/>'.

Initial skills used C# ASP.net MVC web-pages updating VB6 and VB.net applications. After the closure announcement, I was tasked with maintenance work: using VB6, VB.net and SQL queries, with Unit-Tests in C#; along with BDD, DDD and

BA design. I modified web-pages using ASP.net MVC and VB.net. Following the company SDLC process, based on 'Scrum' and 'Agile' techniques, with the GIRA web-based workflow application.

GDPR Assessment and Update

Involved in Investigation of new GDPR regulation requirements, specifically Data-Retention rule implementation.

I produced metrics of current database tables for different environments, with current data-dictionary usage and DPA regulation implementation. Investigated current database stored procedures used to implement DPA.

I designed an augmented data-dictionary to support the GDPR, Retention and Anonymisation. Updating the current data-dictionary database triggers used to control the content of the data-dictionary. The paradigm used for data-retention was re-written for greater control of data and encompass the entire company data-set (databases, spreadsheets, word documents). Identified data-sets and retention periods, linked to 'person' identity.

Client Audit Action: Arrangement Letters

A client audit reported a debt-repay arrangement letters problem, including the script used during customer calls.

Confusion over first and subsequent payment dates by the customer and when funds were cleared. I mocked up the changes required for both CFE and AFE applications, and presented them with documentation to stakeholders. After acceptance, I produced a prototype for stakeholders to gain acceptance. The second stakeholder meeting agreed to my implementation, I liaised with stakeholders to complete the requirement (letter production).

CFE/AFE Phone Number Kill

To streamline the control structure for deleting phone numbers, including pending lists for the auto-dialler and SMS.

The original calls to these processes, had a number of problems, spread over a VB6 DLL and a VB.net DLL. I merged the variations and moved functions from the VB6 DLL to the VB.net DLL; adding routines to the DLLs in a safe manner, no recompile of existing applications. This involved overloading the original functions with more complete versions and redirecting calls from the VB6 DLL to the VB.net DLL.

The consultations with stakeholders was fully supported by diagrams, showing the impact and envisioned solution; along with a document showing all impacted function calls in the entire code-base.

Linked Accounts problem

Regarding Customers with multiple accounts from different Clients and/or multiple debt defaults. The linking-system reported these incorrectly and a number of DPA and GDPR violations were reported. The two-phase solution was an emergency fix to eliminate the possibility of wrongly linking alike Customers. The second phase was a complete solution to the problem, involving full consultation with stakeholders including B.A.s and higher management. The CFE and AFE applications were both modified and the supporting DLLs; VB.net and VB6 languages and SQL queries.

'SQL' Error Logs

Run-time errors; the log files ran to 100Mb per day. Investigation revealed the cause to the vast majority of these entries. A class instantiation included an obsolete member that was just reporting its use, no error. I removed the member from the class and the log file reduced to 1% of its former size. After release the Log files re-inspected, one entry type was responsible for 95%. One of four calls to a class constructor did not supply enough data in a table data-set; I corrected the code paradigm and these log-entries disappeared. The log-files are now occasional run-time errors and operator finger-trouble entries. VB.net, VB6 and SQL queries.

W6UpdrMC application timeout runtime error

This application was suffering from an occasional run-time error due to a query time-out. I discovered the data-set was from a 'dynamic' SQL query. I rewrote the dynamic query, into two parts; an initial dynamic statement to load a temporary database, with normal 'optimisable' statements. The query ran 10 – 20 times faster afterwards.

Stanley Davis Group March 2016 – September 2017 (Permanent Role)

Web-site '<https://www.stanleydavis.co.uk/>'.

Job title: Senior Software Developer/Architect. My duties also involved 3rd line support for our Users and Customer problems. The Stanley Davis Group is mainly concerned with financial services, with over half of all the UK's Company Formations business, and a large part of UK and Ireland's Local Authority Property Search requests; also Company Secretary Support services and Over-seas Company management. The majority of the work used C#.net MVC pages.

Due to SDG's continuing acquisitions and mergers, there were too many IT people; I was made redundant on a last-in first-out basis (also my boss's project was cancelled, so he took mine).

Implement User-Identity log-in.

Convert existing development project from web-forms to web-forms plus MVC5, and implement User-Identity log-in for new SDG web-site. Allowing Single Sign-on (SSO) for company web-sites, using OWIN / OAuth modules. Adding User roles to Identity along with specific permission handling. The Migration of current log-in paradigm data-set to new SSO / OWIN data-set; involving data conversion and cleaning, whilst still supporting previous log-in credentials. Added 'Admin' layer to new web-site, using both MVC Routing and Web-Forms Restrictions; based on User-roles.

Re-Architect existing 'Property Search' web-site, internal workflow intranet, and out-worker application.

Pick-up badly maintained code-base, circa 2004, and dragged it kicking and screaming into 2017. I included stakeholders in the design process to ensure a good fit to user requirements and business objectives, using RAD-SSADM techniques, over 4 cycles of design and deployment. This involved C#, VB and XML legacy code with old 'free' components. This comprised C# coding in both MVC5 and Web-form styles depending on usage, with J-Query scripts to speed the user interface. Extensive re-design of the database system, using SQL, LINQ and EF. Guided User Workflow process control to improve automation, coupled to 'Source-Model-Object' pattern use and State-Machines. Implemented the recording of state and user interaction, along with error messages. Project from conception, Stakeholder reviews of Alpha and Beta releases, Initial Release V1.0 with 'Live' data and External users.

Modify software implementation processes to add rigour and quality assurance for the IT department.

Supported the IT department head with the introduction of proper software release control; including 'User Acceptance Testing' and 'Application Lifecycle Management' techniques.

Human Focus International Ltd. May 2004 - September 2015 (Permanent Role)

Address: Castle Court, 41 London Road, Reigate Surrey RH2 9RJ.

Web-Site: '<http://www.humanfocus.org.uk/CBTbyB/Entry.aspx>'

I had worked for this company a number of times on a contract basis, before taking a permanent job. At the time they were a publisher of 'Health and Safety' training videos on CDs with associated pamphlets and software applications; but due to changing market conditions, new business dried up and existing customers were going to the competition. I created their web presence. In 2015 the entire development department was exported to Pakistan, and then I was made redundant; developers are very much cheaper in Pakistan.

Computer Based Training by Browser (CBTbyB)

I created an internet based training system comprising both on-line training and training management control.

- a) **Prototype:** PHP4, JavaScript, My-SQL, Dream-weaver and Flash-MX, Remote ISP (UNIX - Apache).
- b) **Initial Release:** Windows IIS, SQL Server and ASP.net V2 (VB.net), JavaScript, Flash-MX, T-SQL, Visual Studio.
- c) **Production Release:** ASP.net V2, VB.net/C#.net, JavaScript, Flash-MX, SQL Server V8-R2, T-SQL, Visual Studio, IIS6.0, SMTP, FTP, Server 2003, XML, XSLT.
- d) **Second Release** Update: new dual Servers. Server 2k8 R2, C#.net, T-SQL, LINQ, Database, R-Sync, Fortress/Vault.

Smart-Card Logging and Reporting (SCLR)

A stand-alone Windows Application to read an HFI supplied Trainee's Smart-Card at Customer site premises. This identity, sent via web API, where it was logged, and a list of Training undertaken displayed in the application.

Mobile Phone Apps - Support

A smart-phone application created, trainee's to watch the training videos on their mobile phones. I was involved in the project start-up and did the initial feasibility study; Pakistan developers for the smart phone applications.

Customer Facing Manufactures Information Web-Site (e-Label)

I Project managed a new web-site for 'e-Label' concept, using 'QR-Code' images linked to ordinary mobile phones, to present customer and casual Health and Safety related information display and feedback.

e-Learning Web-Site Interactive Update (Hot-Spot)

I created an immersive user experience when viewing training material, involving interactive images and 'spot the hazard' questionnaire items.