

Ben Hughes

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I have been a professional developer for over 12 years, working with a wide range of technologies. I am currently a senior software engineer at eWater, working on a hydrological modelling application written in C# (WPF and Winforms).

In my previous role I was a senior .NET developer at VSoft Technologies, creating a complex multi-tier web application using ASP.NET MVC3, jQuery, SQL Server, Postgres, nHibernate and WCF.

Prior to that I was a senior developer and technical lead at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. I was personally responsible for delivery of the 12-person team's work program. I looked after overall architecture and design, mentoring and team building, along with my own development work. I was heavily involved in promoting best practice and actively involved in our internal developer community.

I am the maintainer of a somewhat popular open source application, and in my spare time I work on it and other open source projects.

Key Strengths

- 12 years experience as a professional software developer in the private and public sectors
- Expertise in designing, developing and deploying large, highly performant business critical applications
- Experience in multi-tier web applications built on the latest Microsoft technology stack
- Passionate about software development and learning new technologies
- Significant development experience in C#, Oracle PL/SQL, SQL, Adobe Flex, Java and Javascript
- Some exposure to Haskell, C, PHP, and Bash scripting
- Experience leading medium sized and virtual teams
- Experience working in a formal SCRUM environment
- Experience with many version control and continuous integration tools
- Passionate about sharing knowledge and building capability in others

Experience

Senior Software Engineer, eWater Ltd

2012 - Present

I am 2IC of a small Agile team responsible for the development and modernisation of Source, a complex (1 million+ LoC) hydrological modelling application. This has included:

- re-designing and rewriting the app's internal Excel-like expression language, resulting in a 50% reduction in model run time and a much improved user experience
- designing the assurance framework: an extensible system for providing run-time validation
- performance tuning and multi-threading an historically single-threaded application
- designing MUSIC-Link, a compliance and reporting tool for our other major product, MUSIC

Project Maintainer, todotxt.net

2010 - Present

I started and continue to lead the open source todotxt.net project. It has around 1000 users and 16 contributors. I also create and contribute to various other open source projects.

Senior Developer, VSoft Technologies

2010 - 2012

I was one of the primary developers on a large (30k+ LoC) multi-tier .NET web application, taking the product from conception to public beta. I also provided customer-facing support for an existing ASP.NET/C# 2.0 application and Delphi, Javascript and C# components.

Technical Team Leader, Australian Bureau of Statistics

2002 – 2010

I had many roles at the ABS, starting as a graduate and ending as a Technical Team Leader in the Census project. Highlights include:

- managing a \$1.5mil/year software development program, having responsibility for overall architecture and delivery of the work program with a team of 12 developers
- the design, execution and on-the-fly tuning of the first Census processing systems to be backed by a database. This included a large set of PL/SQL stored procedures and .NET access layers, and tables with more than 3 billion rows
- being the 'embedded expert' in the (non-developer) web design team, developing interactive data visualization components in Adobe Flex. This included writing a Java tier to feed the visualisations from the existing (disparate) data sources
- leading a small R&D team
- helping found the Communities of Practice program, an internal initiative to share knowledge and create best practice. This included starting communities for Testing, Systems Architecture, and Collaboration
- being a peer-elected representative in the staff/executive forum

Education

Tertiary

2001 Bachelor of Information Technology, Australian National University

2001 Bachelor of Commerce (Finance, Economics), Australian National University

Other

2015 Introduction to Functional Programming with Haskell, NICTA

Awards

Top Github C# Developer in Canberra (June 2015)

According to [github-awards](#), I am the top open source contributor to C# projects in Canberra, and am in the top 10 for Australia.

Mashup Australia Transformation Challenge award (December 2009)

Mashup Australia was an Australian Government sponsored event designed to encourage people to create new services based on government (and non-government) data sources. The Transformation Challenge award was centred around making data sets more programmatically accessible, and carried a \$1,000 prize.

Technology Services Division Recognition and Reward award (May 2009)

For outstanding contribution to progressing professional practice

Certificate of Appreciation (June 2007)

For outstanding commitment and dedication to the delivery of the technical solutions for DPC clients. This has often meant “just in time” redevelopment and tuning of Oracle applications at the DPC to meet ever increasing performance requirements.

Ben has always been available to his clients and other members of his team, whatever time of day or night. He has worked extremely long hours and on a continuous basis for many months, often at a cost of significant disruption to his personal and family life.

Information Management and Census Division Recognition and Reward award (June 2007)

For your highly valued contribution to the success of the Census Data Processing Centre 2006/07

Technology Services Division Recognition and Reward award (March 2006)

For providing excellent leadership and support in the development of Census applications, thorough documentation at all times and for sharing his ideas and knowledge with the rest of the ABS. In particular, Ben has weaved his magic on the Administration, Workload Delivery and User Registration systems. Ben's leadership and absolute dedication to excellence has ensured delivery of high quality work across all Census applications.

Referees

Contact details for referees are available on request.