

Alex Hughes

Software Engineer

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Nationality: British / Greek

SUMMARY

I am a Software Engineer, specialised in backend applications. I adhere to Software Technology standards but at the same time I recognise the need for businesses to pivot quickly. I have 4 years of experience in web development and 8 years of experience in developing commercial desktop applications.

My experience consists of creating bespoke applications, designing databases, optimising databases, setting up and running servers and automating deployments, writing algorithms, designing and implementing REST apis.

I am currently looking for new challenges where I can combine my skills or even acquire new ones, in my quest of writing good software. Ideally I would work in an environment that pushes the envelope in software technology.

SKILLS

Programming Languages Databases

- Java
- PHP
- C / C++
- Python
- Perl
- Bash
- Javascript
- MySQL / MariaDB
- Oracle
- PostgreSQL
- MongoDB
- Memcached
- Redis
- Cassandra

Misc

- JSON
- XML
- HTML
- BSON
- Git / github
- Subversion

Systems

- Ubuntu
- CentOS
- LAMP
- Apache
- Nginx
- Squid

EXPERIENCE

CTO / Chief Software Engineer, Niume

London, UK 01/2013 - 02/2017

Niume is a collaborative blogging platform and it poses many challenges

in order to design and implement its code so that it can be easily scalable and maintainable. As CTO it is my responsibility to manage the whole development team, liaise with the business people and be in control of the entire software stack.

The middle-end is a bespoke PHP application while the back end is written in Java. It makes use of a REST api for Android and iPhone apps as well as for administrative purposes. The entire Niume software stack comprises of a combination of modular monolithic and independent microservices architecture.

Niume's main database makes use of MySQL Master - Slave architecture for mission critical data such as user posts and user info as well as MongoDB for non-critical data and queuing. Content caching is achieved using a Memcached cluster.

Semi automated deployment and backup scripts are written in bash or python.

I am the Software Architect of all Niume's modules, including the core application in PHP, Victoria (Niume's backend written in Java), Scotland Yard (an abuse detection system), NAP (the administrative platform written in PHP), MI6 (an in house analytics engine that provides users with insights and also contributes with signals in popular feed generation), as well as Niume's Picture Manager, written in Java.

I am also the Database Architect & Administrator of Niume's core database (MySQL), Niume's NAP database (MySQL), Niume's Queues (MongoDB).

Niume's System Architecture (Load Balancers, Servers, Databases, Containers) was planned and engineered by me.

Accomplishments

- Niume has 3M unique visitors a month
- Niume has a bespoke analytics engine where it provides users with insights and also helps generating trending feeds. The analytics engine processes every single request made to the website
- Niume's backend Victoria utilises various bespoke algorithms that take into account multiple signals (views, comments etc) and create feeds, enabling better content discovery

Software Engineer, ahughes.org

2009-2013

I undertook contracting work for small to medium sized companies and created CRM / ERP bespoke solutions that automated some of their office processes and reduced their daily workload. These projects normally consisted of desktop applications (mainly using Java Swing interfaces) that were designed and implemented according to the clients' requirements.

Depending on their infrastructure (whether they had independent / dedicated servers) the project could either be a thin client or a thick client (client including most of the logic with a MySQL database running on a synology RAID server)

EDUCATION

University of East London, London, UK

Exchange Student - (1/9/2012 - 15/1/2013)

University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

Applied Informatics - (2009 - 2012)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.