

ABOUT

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CAREER SUMMARY

I worked in software development from May 1975 to March 2005.

When I passed my postgrad law qualification in 1995, I did not take up the place I had been offered at bar school, continuing instead to work in software development.

Subsequently, until 18th November 2016, I worked as a self-employed freelance paralegal.

EDUCATION

O-level in 1968 in 9 subjects including Mathematics and both English subjects. I obtained grade 1 (equivalent to the top half of a modern GCSE grade A), in Mathematics, Latin and Scripture Knowledge.

A-level 1970 in **Mathematics** (grade A), **Physics** (grade A) and **Chemistry** (grade B *merit*).

First class honours degree, mainly in **Mathematics** and **Physics**, Open University, 1980. (An excerpt from my OU first degree Academic Transcript follows, showing the courses I took.)

Qualification completed					
<i>8 December 1980</i>		<i>Bachelor of Arts with Honours</i>		<i>(First-class)</i>	
Completed courses, subordinate awards, and credit transfer which comprise the above qualification					
Year	Course	Title	Level	Points	Result
1976	S100	Science: A Foundation Course	1	60.0	Distinction
1977	AM289	History of Mathematics	2	30.0	Grade 2 Pass
1977	M100	Mathematics: A Foundation Course	1	60.0	Distinction
1977	M251	An Algorithmic Approach to Computing	2	30.0	Distinction
1978	M201	Linear Mathematics	2	60.0	Grade 2 Pass
1978	M231	Analysis	2	30.0	Distinction
1978	MST282	Mechanics and Applied Calculus	2	30.0	Grade 2 Pass
1979	M211	Introduction to Algebra and Geometry	2	30.0	Distinction
1979	S354	Understanding Space and Time	3	30.0	Distinction
1980	M352	Computer Based Information Systems	3	30.0	Grade 2 Pass
1980	SM351	Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure	3	30.0	Distinction
1980	SM352	Electromagnetism	3	30.0	Distinction
1976	*	Credit transfer		60.0	
Total number of credit points counted towards this award:				510.0	

Common Professional Examination in **Law** (nowadays called the Postgraduate Diploma), DeMontfort University, 1995

WHAT WORK AM I LOOKING FOR NOW?

I am looking for career opportunities to return to work in the **I.T.** sector nationwide, interesting projects in **law**, **politics**, or the **voluntary sector**, or a **local** job near home.

CAREER HISTORY (in reverse-chronological order)

If assessing this CV for a role in Information Technology, you may wish to skip to the next page.

Since retiring from software development in 2005

1 June 2010 – 18 November 2016 **Self-employed or working *pro bono*** Freelance paralegal

This work involved me in both of the following roles:

- (1) assisting minor clients of my own who were litigants in person, as their *only* legal help,
- (2) working as part of a team that included myself and two barristers and two solicitors, all assisting one particular common client of ours, all accountable to that client separately and directly, whilst liaising with one another as required.

22 December 2007 – 31 May 2010 **FleetCharityShop.com** **Manager**

In December 2007, I started renting the shop at 216 Fleet Road, Fleet, and opened it as a charity shop. In May 2008, I formed the charitable limited company Beulah Baruch Ministries and registered it with the Charity Commission. I re-branded the shop as FleetCharityShop.com and introduced the specialisation in selling previously-owned donated furniture. The shop was staffed by volunteers I recruited and managed, a great many of whom had mental health problems, and/or were addicts in recovery.

I designed the automated and clerical data processing systems for the business. I was the webmaster of the charity and the shop websites, and handled the online sales via an eBay charity account, and the taking of credit and debit cards and Paypal payments, online and in the shop.

March 2006 – November 2007 **Zenith Staybrite** **Marketing manager**
Door canvasser
Salesman

Stop-gap employment near to home during my then wife's terminal illness and my subsequent bereavement.

CAREER HISTORY continued**My 30 years in software development**

(Repeat business and long-term clients/employers are shown in red.)

February 2001 - 4 March 2005

HPI Limited

Software Developer

As a result of a private sale on the part of Equifax of its subsidiary HPI Limited, the Chief Executive of **IMVA** (see below) became the Chief Executive of **HPI**. He invited me to contract direct with HPI. The old applications were being re-engineered, migrated, and enhanced, and new applications were being developed.

There were front-end browser-based components in J2EE, and back-end UDB database processes, including shellscripts, Cobol-written processes and stored procedures.

Over the four years of this contract, I was involved in migrating Billing and Charging applications from mainframe to Unix, and in migrating other applications from Unix UDB to mainframe UDB under zLinux. I also acceptance tested the Micro Focus Cobol compiler for Linux. I coded mainly in Kornshell shellscript or in Cobol, including the development of Cobol client-server applications in which the client programs were GUIs running under Windows and the server programs ran under CICS. I used Casegen tools. I also developed a system of shellscripts which enabled a macro preprocessing stage to be pre-pended to the compilation sequences. This allowed the source language to be rendered more compact and powerful, by reducing the need for source-code "clichés" to be hand-coded in full every time, with only minimal difference. I implemented CVS on most of the Cobol code, to allow concurrent developments to be undertaken.

November 1999 - February 2000

Euler Trade Indemnity

Migration consultant

Euler Trade Indemnity is a specialised multinational insurance company. I worked in a development role on a new client server application for a new, high profile international project. The client code was to consist of web pages and Visual Basic subroutines. The server code was to consist of Cobol programs with embedded SQL running on RS6000 hardware under AIX and CICS. The RDBMS was DB2.

My main accomplishment was to develop a set of shellscripts which could generate automatically the Cobol server code from much smaller formalised specifications. I came up with this idea and defined the formal specification language. The approach was necessitated because of the huge number of server programs, which were going to be necessary. I was also required to liaise with the client code development team in order to agree commarea format and to complete proof of concept testing.

September 1997 - June 1999

IMVA Ltd

Analyst Programmer

"IMVA" is an acronym for the Independent Mileage Verification Association. IMVA was one of the two private enterprises allied for the recent launch of the National Mileage Register, a database used by the motor trade and, in due course, to be used by the general public, in order to combat odometer fraud.

The other NMR partner was HPI Ltd. (HPI is an acronym for Hire Purchase Information.) At the

time, HPI Ltd was a subsidiary of Equifax.

The database was to hold records of most of the vehicles in the UK. The newly developed computer system was central to the business, carrying a high volume of transactions through background processes and supporting the work of a call centre, mainly through client-server applications.

My role was to design and to develop, mainly using Casegen tools, IBM Cobol programs with embedded SQL, the Windows NT client, CICS server and batch and CICS background processing components of the completely new system (i.e. not a re-write). The processes ran on an IBM RS6000 using AIX, CICS and DB2, networked using NFS, with PCs in the Call Centre that ran the GUI client components of the application. This was a distributed CICS system. A CPU link was used between IMVA's IBM Unix machine holding the core of the application and the IBM mainframe used by IMVA's major business partner, Equifax. A key feature of the corporate software was the use of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority's facilities for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

June - September 1997 **Reliance Mutual Insurance Society** **Migration Consultant**

I was engaged on quite a short contract at Reliance Mutual to rewrite about sixty Filetab programs in Cobol, so that my customer could cancel the Filetab software licence. I used the Unix text editor "vi" from a terminal running Xwindows to produce C2 Cobol, which I compiled and tested under VME, having used FTF to transfer the source code. I also built an SCL procedure partially to automate the changes required to the VME SCL routines which had run the obsolete Filetab programs, in order to deploy the new Cobol programs instead.

April 1996 - May 1997 **CSC Oxford Consortium** **Migration and Test Consultant**

I returned (see below) to the CSC Oxford Consortium in order to complete the work on the payroll application on which I had worked in January 1996. My role was to continue with the conversion from VME SCL & C2 Cobol to Unix Shellscrip & Micro Focus Cobol of the customisations to the standard payroll package and with the systematic testing both of CSC's customisations and of the core package. I left shortly after the application began running live on Unix and the goal of the project, the decommissioning the expensive mainframe, was thus accomplished, on 30 April 1997, saving CSC about £200,000 annually in mainframe software licence fees and support contracts alone.

The approach I developed to testing one of the major suites was automated, using shellscrips to call the Unix utility 'diff' to compare suitably (and automatically) manipulated (to facilitate the comparison) VME and Unix output from the corresponding processes on the two platforms. The test plan and summary of results was prepared using Excel.

I also developed a menu driven print manager in shellscrip, consisting of a server running under root and a client running under a non-privileged user. This avoided the need for the computer operations staff to have access to the command line prompt or to know the root password in order to root output to printers pre-loaded with the correct pre-printed stationery. Since most of the consortium's customers had their own stationery, and there were many Inland Revenue forms produced, this simplified a task which would otherwise been almost unmanageable.

February - March 1996 **Leicestershire County Council** **Migration Consultant**

I finished my short assignment at the council working on the migration of a road traffic accidents application written in Cobol from a Unisys mainframe to Micro Focus Cobol on a PC running DOS and Windows.

Prior to this I rewrote twenty-seven Unitab (Filetab) scripts in Microfocus Cobol as part of the migration of an education grants and awards mainframe application to Unix.

For both these tasks, I achieved a degree of *automation* of the generation of the code for the new target environments using Unix shellscripts I wrote.

January - February 1996 **CSC Oxford Consortium** **Migration Consultant**

During a short preliminary assignment lasting five weeks, I was involved in the initial planning of the migration of a payroll application. The application was written in ICL mainframe VME Cobol and VME SCL and needed to be migrated to run under Unix, with conversion of the SCL procedures to Unix shellscripts and of the VME Cobol programs to Micro Focus Cobol.

I developed a collection of shellscripts which converted automatically most of the VME Cobol from mainframe to Unix dialect and generated automatically Unix Shellscripts, based upon reverse engineering SCL script source code automatically.

July 1995 - December 1995 **Southampton City Council** **Analyst Programmer**

I was engaged on a short contract, partly to maintain VME-based legacy systems running on an ICL mainframe. This involved the installation of new releases of packages handling the usual local government applications.

I also developed IBM mainframe Cobol programs and JCL jobs to supplement the CICS-based software package which supported the administration of Housing Benefits etc. The application ran under IBM's VSE operating system and interfaced via FTF with the Council Tax application running under ICL's VME.

I also helped to implement the council's policy of reducing the amount of computer output which needed to be printed or stored on Microfiche by downloading such output to a pentium PC running Windows 3.1 to be stored on laser disk. This policy was known as COLD (Computer Output on Laser Disk).

My main development task for the COLD project was to design and code an automated and accident-proof download interface between the IBM mainframe and the pentium. The main components of this interface were an EXEC script on the mainframe and a Unix-style shellscript on the pentium, the latter of which was executed by a licensed shareware DOS shellscript interpreter, within an iconised DOS application inside Windows. The shellscript used the DOS command line interfaces to the file transfer facilities of PC3270 documented in the PC3270 help pages.

I also developed Cobol programs to archive and to cull obsolete Community Charge records. I therefore had to gain an understanding of the VSAM KSDS data structure of the CICS-based Community Charge application, by reading the source code.

February 1987 - July 1995

Tear Fund**Systems and Programming Manager
Principal Analyst Programmer**

For eight years, I worked for an international charitable agency, with an evangelical Christian ethos, called Tear Fund. For much of this time, I was employed full-time on the permanent staff either as Systems and Programming Manager or as Principal Analyst Programmer. (Same role, different job title; the latter job title I was invited to choose for myself.) I had the responsibility of leading the in-house application software development team.

Tear Fund had a network of PC's and Unix systems.

The software with which I was most intimately involved day to day was written using Shellscript and Micro Focus Cobol, with the data held on indexed files accessed via C-ISAM. Other software used the Empress RDBMS. I also wrote a small amount of C code.

At Tear Fund, I developed a pseudo-code pre-processor, which I called QBL (quick business language). The pre-processor had specialised knowledge of Tear Fund's way of doing things built into its source language vocabulary. The target language output was Micro Focus Cobol. QBL had a remarkable impact upon programmer productivity and left Tear Fund with source code which was so understandable that non-programmers in user departments were occasionally able to modify it. The source language supported embedded screen and report images and certain JSP constructs, as well as ANS85-like constructs, despite the fact that the target Cobol compiler was written to the ANS74 standard.

"MOONLIGHTING" whilst at Tear Fund:

Charities do not general pay well. During my time with Tear Fund, I therefore supplemented my income by undertaking, outside normal working hours or during short periods of unpaid leave, numerous tasks for commercial clients. These tasks involved developing and supporting software written in Cobol for the following platforms: ICL VME TPMS IDMSX, IBM MVS and VSE CICS (using TSO and Roscoe as the development environments) and using VSAM KSDS files to store application data, plus VAX VMS, Windows, Bull DPS8 GCOS TSS.

September 1985 - January 1987

Freelance (miscellaneous clients)**Analyst Programmer**

During this period I worked for several different clients on ICL mainframe systems. One of those clients, was the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Culham Laboratory, who had used my services before and asked me to come back. Another client was Beaufort Computer Developments, in Gloucester.

September 1983 - August 1985

University of the West of England**Senior Lecturer**

During this period I was employed on **two successive** one-year temporary contracts as a lecturer in Computer Studies at the then Bristol Polytechnic (since renamed The University of the West of England). I taught mainly undergraduates and HND/HNC students. My students included Computer Studies specialists and those from other disciplines, such as Business Studies, who took Computer Studies as a subsidiary subject.

Topics I taught included information systems theory, entity-relationship modelling, systems analysis and design, structured programming (JSP), Cobol, Basic and Pascal.

Whilst lecturing at the polytechnic, I continued to run my business and undertook a certain amount of development work myself as well, as employing a full-time programmer for the first fifteen months of this period. (In those days, academic staff were encouraged to have external "consultancy" involvements with the world of business and my "moonlighting" was thus looked upon with *favour* on the part of the faculty.)

July 1980 - August 1983 **Freelance + Entrepreneur** **Software Developer + Marketer**

During this period I worked as a freelance analyst programmer for **a number of clients**, mainly on ICL VME mainframe systems.

I also developed on my own initiative a commercially successful software package called TEST_AVM, which provided a test environment for transaction processing systems running on ICL mainframes *without* the need to load a TP (or TPMS) service. I documented and marketed this product myself and made sales to thirteen sites. The software package was sufficiently useful for it still to be in use at the turn of the millennium, requiring me much later to undertake work to make the package Y2K-compliant for the one remaining user at that time, in order to earn licence fees into the present century.

June 1977 - June 1980 **International Computers Limited** **Chief Programmer**

During this period I was employed by Dataskil Ltd, part of the ICL group. I was recruited as a Programmer and promoted twice during my three years, first to Senior Programmer, then to the staff grade of Chief Programmer. I worked on Bill of Materials and Material Requirements Planning applications (OMAC) running on ICL mainframes under VME and DME.

May 1975 - June 1977 **Ministry of Defence** **Executive Officer (ADP)**

I became an established civil servant employed at Executive Officer level as a Cobol programmer working on inventory control applications for the Royal Naval Supply and Transport Service. The applications ran under George 3 and VME.

My pre-IT career

In the unlikely event that any recruiter would like to learn about what I did before 1975, I can provide this information on request.