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Consultant - Ben Slack BA (Hons), LLB, MBA (Executive)

Mission Statement

My personal mission is to earn a reputation for success in business, strong and charismatic leadership, innovative thinking and shrewd analysis. I will achieve this through smart practice, professional excellence, ethical dedication and hard work.

Skills Summary

- Ten years experience in business analysis - business process design; computer system requirements gathering and analysis; human and computer system interface design; project costing and net present value calculation, procurement and contract negotiation.
- Fifteen years experience in full life-cycle software development - application architecture; database analysis & design; system architecture, object-oriented analysis and design; testing design and documentation; maintenance and key performance indicator (KPI) process design and analysis.
- Experience developing IT strategy and high-level IT architecture.
- Familiar with common industry project management methodologies, including PMBOK and software development methodologies, including Rational Unified Process (RUP) and Microsoft Solutions Framework (MSF).
- Design and development of geographically and logically separated and distributed *n*-tier applications utilising resilient infrastructures and disaster recovery procedures.
- Experience with content management systems; knowledge management systems, online collaboration systems, internet community systems; executive remuneration systems; CRM systems; fund management systems; inventory management systems; equities and gilts market analysis applications; retail sales analysis applications; retail space and category management applications.
- Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer.
- Bachelor degrees in Law and First Class Honours in Critical and Cultural Theory. Master of Business Administration (Executive) from the AGSM.

Employment Experience

April 2006 – Present Virtual Xpert Pty. Ltd. Surry Hills, NSW
IT Consultant

- Full architecture review and high-level system documentation of the V-Net software-as-a-service (SaaS) application.
- Development of the Datgel Processor Affinity Manager application, a commercial product designed to make the gINT geotechnical analysis software package run efficiently on Windows Terminal Server.
- Complete 8-bit to 16-bit Unicode transformation of the back and front ends of the V-Net SaaS product to service the Japanese market. This involved development of two distinct source code translation engines for the Java and RPG programming languages.

- Barrington Lime Start-up – small mine in the Gloucester Valley, NSW. Development of initial strategy and documentation, including: business strategy (financial goals, product distribution, etc.); marketing and pricing strategy (promotions, geographic franchising, bulk purchase limits, etc.); investment and retained earnings policy; director's responsibilities (especially with regard to customer contact); IT strategy; and, progress review policies. Development of SOPs, employee and supplier contracts, contract management and ERP system implementation, including some development in ASP.NET.
- UNSW Press, Law Handbook Online – application development in ASP.NET for a subscription based Web site.
- ABC PhonePixVid project – developed a strategy and technical options report and recommendations for the News & Current Affairs division of the ABC, regarding receipt of MMS content from audience members.
- JCIS Consultants website project – developed a basic CMS in PHP and MySQL.
- Part-time teaching in management at the Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE

March 2002 – April 2006 Australian Broadcasting Corp. Ultimo, NSW

Project Manager, System Architect, Business Analyst

- The ABC is Australia's mainstream public broadcaster.
- With supervision from CIO, developed IT strategy for ABC Enterprises, the commercial division of the ABC (\$250m pa turnover).
- Development of work breakdown structure and timetable for multi-million dollar content management system (CMS) implementation.
- Liaison with project stakeholders to confirm and analyse project requirements for implementation of a CMS.
- Worked with EMC|Documentum consultants to develop high-level system and application architecture for new CMS based on a Documentum object-relational database and content repository.

Senior Applications Developer

- Manage small development projects from an IT perspective.
- Liaise with ABC Radio, Television and New Media to understand business requirements and explain to technical stakeholders. Ensure technical solutions meet business requirements.
- Technical recommendations for design and implementation of ABC Online distributed internet software.
- Develop software, using C# and ASP.NET on IIS 6.0, JavaScript 1.0 and Microsoft T-SQL, following documented procedures. Development of business and data layer .NET Assemblies. Includes use of XML, Web, security and Data System namespace objects.
- Prepare test cases based on the Functional specification, validating business logic, business processes, User Requirements, and ensuring quality.

Feb – Sept 2001 Xansa PLC South Gyle, Edinburgh, UK

Senior Software Engineer

- Xansa is the UK's largest publicly listed software house delivering customised software systems to major UK, European and global businesses.
- Two projects: the first, as team leader, was a CRM application for an investing based subsidiary of a global bank; the other was for a UK based dotcom startup, dealing in executive remuneration schemes. The first project involved leading a team of three developers and the second as a senior member of a team of twenty to twenty-five at any one time.

Sept 2000 – Feb 2001 William M. Mercer Ltd. Croydon, Surrey, UK

Software Developer

- Mercer is an HR consultancy and fund manager; primarily dealing in executive remuneration schemes, fund management, pensions and superannuation schemes.
- Full-cycle development of an intranet application calculating pension fund members' entitlements.

Mar – Aug 2000 Goldline Media Ltd. Guildford, Surrey, UK

Software Developer

- Goldline Media is a dotcom startup trading as www.uniservity.net. Their products an Internet portal for the UK university student market, offering a database directory of links to a variety of academic sources, as well as other online student services.
- Back-end development was in ASP and T-SQL using SQL Server 7.0. Design and build of middle-tier COM components, handling business logic, for future upgrade. Front-end development used DHTML, with JavaScript 1.2 for browser compatibility.
- Various aspects of the site were under my control, and developed independently. These included a home-page wizard for university clubs and societies, that allowed users to upload pictures and text and display them in a variety of ways; a multiple choice testing engine, that gave random questions on any number of topics to students, and reported progress statistics; and, a web-based newsgroup and discussion section.

1997 – 2000 ACNielsen Pty. Ltd. North Ryde, NSW

Technical Business Analyst

- ACNielsen is listed on the NYSE, and is the world's largest market research company. This position was based in the Retail Consulting division, which offers information solutions to major Australian retailers and their suppliers.
- 40-hour weeks during university holidays, and 14-20 hour weeks during university semesters, and exam periods. Development of proprietary software intended for sale, or supply under existing contracts, to the department's clients. This was particularly the focus of the position during the last two years. Client contact and focus was an important aspect of the position
- The original role, which became less important over the time of the position was LIVE Services Technician, which involved digital photograph and manipulation of images using ACNielsen's LIVE proprietary software, as well as the commercial application Paint Shop Pro.

Workplace Skills

Software Development Languages and Applications
(rating system: beginner, intermediate, experienced, expert)

- Java 2.0 Enterprise Edition – expert
- Java Server Pages (JSP) for Tomcat & J2EE AS – expert
- Microsoft Visual Studio .NET/C#/ASP.NET – expert
- Microsoft Visual Basic 4.0 – 6.0 (including extensive ActiveX / OO / COM / DCOM / MTS / COM+ / Windows DNA experience) – expert
- HTML 4.01, XHTML 1.0, CSS 2.0, XML 1.0, XSL 1.0 – expert
- Microsoft VBScript (client and server) 2.0 - 5.5 – expert
- JavaScript 1.0 - 2.0 – expert
- Microsoft/Sybase T-SQL – expert
- PERL (including ActivePerl) – expert
- MySQL Server 5.0 – expert
- PHP 4.0 - 5.0 – experienced
- Windows, Linux and UNIX administration – experienced
- Oracle PL/SQL – intermediate
- Microsoft Visual C++ 5.0 – .NET – intermediate

Education & Training

2002 – 5 AGSM (UNSW & University of Sydney) Sydney, NSW

- Master of Business Administration (Executive)

1993 – 1999 Macquarie University North Ryde, NSW

- Bachelor of Arts – BA (Hons), Critical and Cultural Theory - First Class Honours
- Bachelor of Laws – LL B.

1987 – 1992 Barker College Hornsby, NSW

- NSW Higher School Certificate 1992 - TER 97.9