

Martin McCallion

Writer and Experienced Software Developer
martin@devilgate.org
07989 407073

[GitHub profile](#)
[Stack Overflow profile](#)
[LinkedIn profile](#)
Last Updated: October 23, 2021

Summary

I have recently completed an MA in Creative Writing. Before that I had a long career as a software developer. I am seeking a role that will let me use both sets of skills, and I think that technical writing would perfectly allow me to combine the two. Software development gave me extensive experience in writing documentation for both technical and non-technical users.

Skills

Writing

I am able to communicate technical subjects to readers both with and without a technical background. Most of what I have written is bound up in proprietary documents belonging to the companies I've worked for, but you can see some examples from my time at SAHSU:

- [Installing the RIF: Quickstart Guide](#)
- [The RIF Installation Guide](#)
- [How to Add a New Taxonomy](#)

Documentation Tools

As well as typical tools such as **Word** and **HTML**, I am fluent in **Markdown**, having used it for years for most of my writing. I have used **JavaDoc** for documenting Java classes and **reStructured Text** for documenting Python scripts. I've used **DocBook**, and have a working knowledge of **T_EX** and **L^AT_EX** (this CV is written in Markdown and formatted using **Pandoc** and a **L^AT_EX** template). At SAHSU I moved the RIF's documentation to **GitHub Pages**. In short, I'm comfortable working with text in any form.

Presentation and training

At various times I have written training materials and given introductory presentations on, for example, new software features or packages. There are some examples in the specific roles below.

Programming

Java

Java 8-12 and earlier: Used **Java 12** at SPIKA. Before that, used **Java 8** extensively at the Home Office. Introduced it at SAHSU. Version 7 latterly at Misys, and most versions before that.

Microservices: My most recent projects were built on a microservice architecture, using **RESTful APIs**.

Databases

I have worked with all the major relational database platforms, including **PostgreSQL**, **MySQL**, **MS SQL Server**, **DB2 LUW** and **DB2 400**, and **Oracle**. Also both **Liquibase** and **Flyway** for platform-independent schema management.

Web Front-end Technologies

Fair knowledge of **JavaScript**, **HTML 5** and **CSS**. At Misys I built a proof of concept using **Twitter Bootstrap**. At SPIKA the front-end development used **jQuery** and **DataTables**.

Scripting Languages

Fairly fluent with **Python**. **Shell scripting** using **Bash** on **Linux** and in **Cygwin**.

Career History

Masters in Creative Writing; October 2020 - September 2021

In October 2020 I started studying full-time for an MA in Creative Writing at Birkbeck, University of London. I finished in September 2021, and am awaiting my result.

Tin Lion Software/Sabbatical/Personal projects; December 2019 - September 2020

I took a break after the SPIKA project finished and worked on personal projects. Some study, some writing, increased my knowledge of Python and JavaScript.

I had started looking for new professional challenges when the pandemic came along and threw everything into confusion, as well as affecting the jobs market.

Senior Java Developer at SPIKA; May 2019 - November 2019

[SPIKA Limited](#) is a digital agency with clients in many industries. I led the development of the WaterDex project, building a RESTful services-based ticketing system for a client in the oil industry. Also presented on the project and contributed to the in-house blog.

Lead Java Developer at the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) of Imperial College; March 2018 - April 2019

Developer on the [Rapid Inquiry Facility](#) (RIF), an open-source tool to help statisticians study health-related datasets. Led the project from a state where the test were failing, to readiness for beta release. Improved the documentation structure and presentation, and wrote new versions of various guides, as shown in the examples above.

Contract: Senior Developer at BJSS, contracted to the Home Office; August 2017 - February 2018

Helped to build a new system for UK visa applications for the Home Office. Also worked on the Asylum Support project. Java 8 development using RESTful services, deployed in Docker containers.

Contract: Senior Developer at UniCredit; August 2016 – May 2017

Supported the implementation of Misys Payment Manager (MPM) and developed add-ons for it. Helped to get MPM installed in one part of the bank's business, while developing add-on functionality (in Java) for that part. Drove a project to install it in another part of the business, along with the opening of a new branch in a new territory. Developed and documented some utilities to aid in the deployment of projects to their WebSphere environment (in Python). Introduced version control (using Subversion) to the project.

Senior Software Engineer at Misys; 1999 – June 2016

Senior developer and scrum master working on [Payment Manager/Message Manager](#), Misys's **JEE** web application for viewing and manipulating financial messages. Worked on all parts of the product, from the **database** right up to the **GUI**. Key contributor to architectural decisions on the direction of the products.

I modernised the process of managing customer database schemas, going from four sets of scripts (for **DB2 LUW**, **DB2 for System i**, **Oracle** and **Microsoft SQL Server**) to a single set using the **Liquibase** open-source tool. Wrote comprehensive in-house and customer-facing documentation on the use of the tool; wrote and gave a presentation on its use; and mentored other team members as they became familiar with it. This all resulted in both an improved development process, and easier installation for clients.

Created a proof of concept for a new version of the user interface using a **Twitter Bootstrap**-derived layout, which showed that the UI could be modernised.

Prior Experience

Various development and support roles with Misys and BIS Banking Systems, working on Midas. Started as a trainee programmer and rose to senior software engineer.

Education and Training

BSc (Hons) Physics – University of Edinburgh

Diploma in Literature and Creative Writing – Open University.

Various professional training courses, including Java, EJBs, project management, agile development with Scrum.