

# Christopher 'Billy' Abbott MEng(hons) ACGI MBCS CITP CEng

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*A drinks writer with specialist knowledge of whisky, previously working as an experienced software engineer, trainer and recruiter in the financial industry.*

## Employment History:

### **April 2011-Present: Web Content Editor, The Whisky Exchange & Speciality Drinks Ltd (<http://www.thewhiskyexchange.com>)**

I currently work as a content creator for The Whisky Exchange, a world renowned supplier of fine spirits. My team provides copy writing services for the company, producing product descriptions, blog posts, website features, newsletters, press releases, advertising and anything else needed.

I also assist with product development, sales, training, customer service, consumer and trade shows, data administration and general IT support.

### **November 2010-Present: Freelance drinks writer and blogger (<http://bbbblog.org.uk>)**

In November 2010 I started writing a drinks focused blog which has since led to a number of other opportunities, including my current full-time position, and which contributed to me leaving the financial industry.

My site is a general drinks blog, deliberately not focusing on one category to allow me to investigate and learn about any area within the industry. The site style is for longer, more heavily researched pieces rather than shorter articles.

I have also written articles for other websites, including <http://masterofmalt.com> and <http://useyourlocal.com>, am a founding presenter of Village of the Drammed (<http://villageofthedrammed.com>) and contributed to 1001 Whiskies to Try Before You Die (ISBN:184403710X). I have also acted as a judge at the 2011 and 2012 World Whisky Masters and Born Digital Wine Awards.

### **July 2000-March 2011: Software Engineer, Senior Software Engineer and Lead Software Engineer at FactSet Europe Ltd (<http://www.factset.com>)**

I was one of the early London based software engineers for this international financial data and software company. Over my decade working at FactSet I took on a number of roles in a variety of different areas of the company.

Throughout I worked primarily as a software engineer and manager, developing solutions to store and retrieve financial data from all over the world using custom built database systems.

I managed Software Engineering recruitment and induction, focusing mainly on graduate recruitment, coordinating the process from careers fair to training, including candidate selection and interviewing.

I was also a trainer, using my position as departmental resource for a number of areas to conduct training sessions throughout the year. These included technical and financial topics, as well as other classes including interview techniques and leading training sessions. I also conducted classes on employability for university students.

### **April-September 1999: Software Engineer (Six month internship) at Applied Psychology Research (now part of [www.smartlogic.com](http://www.smartlogic.com))**

I was one of the first software engineers at a small start-up company specialising in decision making software and web design. I worked on a variety of projects including a prototype digital television EPG; automatic CD track selection for razorcuts.com; a wine suggestion engine for the Co-Op's GrapeAndGrain.com; the design and implementation of the MyTaxi.co.uk shopping portal site; and a gift suggestion engine for lastminute.com. I also helped with general recruitment, helping to grow the company from 5 to 12 during my placement.

### **March 1998-January 1999: System Administrator and Software Engineer for the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department, Corporation of London**

A part time role while at university maintaining the IT systems of the Comptroller's department as well as developing software for internal departmental use. This included time and documentation management applications, an inventory system and initial prototyping of an automated transcription system for legal secretaries.

## Technical Skills:

**Programming:** Perl, C++, Java, DCL, PHP, JavaScript, Visual Basic, Objective-C  
**Web:** HTML, CSS, Apache, WordPress, Joomla  
**Databases:** MySQL, MS SQL Server, FactSet technologies  
**OS:** Windows, Linux, OpenVMS, Solaris, Mac OS X  
**Other:** MVP JAMS, perforce, subversion, CMS, Lotus Notes, iPhone APIs

## Education:

- October 1996 – June 2000 : Imperial College, Computing. Awarded MEng (Hons) 2:1  
Final Project: An investigation into systems for concern separated programming examining pure Java, AspectJ and Hyper/J
- September 1992 - June 1996 : Cranbrook School, Kent  
4 A-Levels (Maths A, Further Maths B, Physics B, German C)  
10 GCSEs (3A\*, 3A, 3B, 1C)  
Certificate of Additional Mathematics

## Languages:

- French, Spanish - reading and basic conversation. Studied to GCSE.
- German – reading and basic conversation. Studied to A-Level.

## Other Qualifications & Positions:

- August 2009 – April 2011: British Computer Society – Young Professionals Group Secretary
- August 2008: Engineering Council UK - Chartered Engineer (CEng)
- April 2008: British Computer Society - Chartered IT Professional Membership (CITP)
- August 2004: City & Guilds Level 2 Photography

## Interests and activities:

Computer games: Other than playing and writing about games I also co-host a podcast – One More Go at <http://geekplanetonline.com>.

I am interested in film, both as a consumer and creator. I have worked on a number of student films and have produced several shorts of my own. I also volunteer at the Sci-Fi-London film festival (<http://sci-fi-london.com>).

I am a photographer with a lot of my work available to view on flickr – <http://flickr.com/photos/cowfish>.

I'm interested in the future of books and reading, especially the use of ebooks and the potential for new forms of reading experience.