

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

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A software engineering generalist with recent experience of working in the financial industry

## Employment History:

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

I currently develop solutions for the acquisition of fixed income and mutual fund data, and its publishing to the FactSet platform. This involves building systems to manipulate, load databases with and integrate data into the FactSet product suite. I am also involved with both the day to day support of these data products and the various tools and frameworks used to produce them, working with OpenVMS, Windows and Linux and using a variety of programming languages.

I am one of the departmental subject matter experts for various areas, including Perl, OpenVMS/DCL, production system design, financial identification systems, equity benchmark data and internal technologies (including custom database systems, and in-house code resources and tools).

I run the graduate recruiting and training programme for Software Engineering in London and as part of this I attend university careers fairs, conduct technical and HR interviews, and run a variety of technical and non-technical training classes both in the UK and USA. I also look after ongoing training and professional development, organising a mentorship scheme, giving further training classes and supporting those working towards professional qualifications.

Previous responsibilities have included work on various other types of financial data, internal command line and web based productivity tools, file handlers for non-native formats under OpenVMS, symbology for financial identification systems and logistics for internal conferences. I have also managed several teams during my time at FactSet, working on projects from data acquisition and publishing to the design and building of internal productivity tools.

### **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 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. Some experience with Objective-C and iPhone APIs

**Web:** HTML, CSS, Apache, WordPress

**Databases:** MySQL, MS SQL Server, FactSet technologies

**OS:** Windows, Linux, OpenVMS, Solaris, Mac OS X

**Other:** MVP JAMS, perforce, subversion, CMS, Lotus Notes

I'm generally interested in computer programming, and have been for over 20 years, and as such have dabbled with many other languages, frameworks, software packages and technologies.

## 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

## Training:

### Courses taken:

IET Mentorship July 2007	Selection Interviewing November 2005
How to teach "Train the Trainer" June 2007	Catalyst: Coaching Skills for Managers November 2005
Villard: Coaching October 2006	Catalyst: Management Skills March 2005
"Train the Trainer" (training trainers to train) April 2006	Telekurs: VDF June 2004
Allen and Overy: UK Employment Law January 2006	Interviewing Skills July 2002

### Courses taught:

Perl for Beginners	How to Demonstrate FactSet software
OpenVMS & DCL for Non-programmers/Beginners/Intermediates	Selection Interviewing
MVP JAMS & Production System Design	Financial Identification Systems
Train the Trainer	Basic iPhone Programming

## Qualifications:

- August 2008: Engineering Council UK - Chartered Engineer (CEng)
- April 2008: British Computer Society - Chartered IT Professional Membership (CITP)

## Interests and activities:

Secretary of the British Computer Society Young Professionals Group Executive Committee, working with event organisation and management (<http://www.bcs.org/ypg>).

I write a couple of blogs – <http://cowfish.org.uk> for my random interests and <http://bbblog.org.uk> for writing about alcoholic drinks.

Computer games: Other than playing and writing about games I also co-host a podcast – One More Go at <http://geekplanetonline.com>. I'm very interested in game design, with some of my first programming projects being games, as well as the general industry and have become involved with the Gamers' Voice group.

I am an avid film watcher as well as being interested in their making and promotion. I have been credited on a number of student films as a production assistant and general set help (working with lighting, camera and sound departments) and have produced several short films of my own as an effort to learn about scripting and editing. I am also a volunteer at the Sci-Fi-London film festival (<http://sci-fi-london.com>), working at the festival as well as running their Twitter account ([@scifilondon](http://twitter.com/scifilondon)), assisting with the website, writing occasional articles and developing an iPhone application for the festival.

I am a photographer with a lot of my work available to view on flickr – <http://flickr.com/photos/cowfish>. As part of my involvement with flickr I also started the London flickr meetups group and help organise events.

I'm interested in technology and its influence on social interaction. I'm a keen Twitter user ([@cowfish](http://twitter.com/cowfish)) and attendee of various conferences and gatherings to do with social media, including Tweetcamp, various Amplified events and occasional visits to Tuttle (<http://tuttleclub.wordpress.com>).

I'm also interested in the future of books and reading, especially the use of ebooks and the potential for new forms of reading experience. I have helped run sessions on the future of reading and reading technology at the Amplified08 unconference and Penguin BookCamp 2009.