

Technical Architect

Job Description

Job title:	Technical Architect
Reporting to:	Development Director
Location:	Bristol / South West

Terms:	
Working hours:	Mon – Fri, 08:45 – 17:15 (37.5 hours per week total)
Annual leave:	25 days per year plus 8 UK bank holidays
Car allowance:	No
Benefits available:	Pension / Health Care / Discretionary Bonus Scheme

The Company:

WCBS is a trusted supplier of leading school MIS and finance software, providing integrated solutions to the independent and international education sector for over 35 years. Trusted by hundreds of schools, in more than 40 countries, WCBS provides exceptional customer service and a portfolio of tailored solutions designed to support the admissions, academic, administrative and finance departments.

Through utilising the cloud-based or on-premise products that WCBS has to offer, schools can access, organise, manage and share information quickly and accurately. This saves valuable teaching and administrative time, so that schools can concentrate on what's important – developing strategies for success whilst delivering outstanding education.

Job role:

Key responsibilities:

- Working with the product management team to design and evolve the product vision.
- Take architectural leadership and ownership on various technical projects from development projects to infrastructure.
- Support customers and BAs in identifying how business needs can be met cost effectively through leverage of platform capabilities.
- Guide application architecture in line with business requirements.
- Working with a team of both on-shore and off-shore LAMP stack developers and testers.
- Lead and be champion for best practices in all technical areas and taking feedback from the team to bring their ideas forward to fruition.
- Using your knowledge and experience you will be able to influence the team's success, working stakeholders across the business to deliver effective and successful product solutions.
- Help the team develop work breakdowns and estimates.
- Lead the development and delivery of complex projects.
- Provide estimations and help plan project delivery timescales.
- Feedback on progress against plans, timescale updates and problems to the Development Director.

The above is not an exhaustive list of duties and you will be expected to perform different tasks as necessitated by your changing role within the company.

Key requirements:

- Proven track record of providing technical direction/design/architecture.
- Able to efficiently make important decisions and work with team members to unblock tasks.
- Strong development experience working with a range of technologies, preferably PHP, MySQL and a Javascript framework such as Vue or React.
- Basic knowledge of containerised applications such as Docker / Kubernetes and running of applications within a modern cloud provider such as GCE, Azure and AWS.
- Excellent understanding of software architecture for cloud / SaaS solutions and related technologies.
- Excellent understanding and experience of service-oriented architecture, RESTful services, API design and development.
- Excellent understanding and experience of software architecture and development, in relation to security, scalability and performance/
- Full understanding of the software development lifecycle with specific attention to the delivery of software products using a strong agile environment.
- Exposure to the latest tools and technologies (Continuous Integration, Test Automation, DevOps) and a strong understanding of technology trends.
- Outstanding relationship building skills (stakeholders, 3rd parties etc.)
- Good communication skills both verbally and written.
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Candidates should have the following experience:

- Designing and developing software solutions using best practice principles, patterns and appropriate frameworks.
- Estimate, document and communicate software designs to business stakeholders; technical and non-technical.
- Implement secure solutions, hardened against current understood and recognised web threats (e.g. OWASP Top 10)
- A strong focus on developing quality solutions, able to employ suitable test approaches.
- Experience in implementing transformational projects.
- Work as part of a team to deliver solutions to agreed requirements, standard and timescales.
- Be accountable for own work as part of the team performance, independently communicating with colleagues to clarify requirements and acceptance criteria, as necessary.
- Mentor junior members of the team in an environment of continuous professional development.
- Research and recommend to senior stakeholders, codebase and/or tooling enhancements to improve overall quality of customer deliverables.
- Be responsible for own professional development needs, in discussion with line manager.
- Unit testing / TDD / TFD.
- Prior experience of Git, Jira, Confluence.
- Mobile solutions design / development.
- Software instrumentation and monitoring.

Key performance indicators:

- Comprehension – fully understands problems independently and associated impacts to connected processes.
- Client communication – email, conference calls and presentations without supervision.
- Workshops – preparation and content.
- Production – should produce client ready output for full scope of work with limited re-work.
- Supervision – requires minimal supervision and able to independently assist others.

Additional duties:

- Required to travel between WCBS UK sites as necessary.
- Wiling to travel internationally, this will be infrequent but could be for a few days at a time.