Job Description – Technical Architect

V2 October 2013

Reports to

Development Director

Location

Newbury

The Role

PassivSystems is based in Newbury, UK. It provides home energy management services and has established itself as the leading provider of renewables monitoring in the country. The company has contracts with 3 of UK's big six energy companies and has just established its first international office in Denmark.

This position is to provide architectural leadership across a broad-based product line, encompassing embedded devices, mobile applications, an in-home hub, a highly scalable server platform and off-the-shelf business systems. The candidate will be well versed in the development of large scale systems and will have a proven experience in using best of breed technologies for delivering business critical services. The role presents an exciting opportunity to help define a world-leading product in one of the most exciting markets.

Key Responsibilities

The individual in this role will be responsible for the following:

- To define an ongoing architectural strategy for the business
- Using the architectural strategy, define an architectural roadmap for the business that supports and underpins the product roadmap
- Maintaining an awareness of what competitors in the market are doing and using it to inform the technical roadmap
- Ensuring that the company maintains a technical competitive advantage.
- Articulating the architectural vision to the engineering team, getting buy-in and inspiring them to adopt it
- Evangelising the architectural strategy and roadmap at executive level
- Ensuring that the engineering team adopt appropriate best practice approaches and tools to deliver value to the business in terms of quality, time to market and competitive advantage
- Providing architectural oversight to the team, acting as the ultimate design authority on significant technical decisions
- Acting as design authority on all APIs

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- Actively participating in debate about whether we build or buy solutions for the business.
- Promoting and evangelising best practice within the engineering team and the wider company
- Collaboratively designing key parts of the company's business and production systems
- Working closely with the product management team to help define a world-class product offering'
- Coding key elements of the system
- Working closely with development team leaders and distribution owners to ensure deliverables match the architectural vision
- Providing technical pre-sales support on key account sales
- Working with external counterparties to define appropriate APIs and integration points
- Assisting in the selection and recommendation of bought in solutions
- Managing the DevOps function, providing tools for the development team, including continuous delivery

Candidate Profile

The right candidate will be a highly articulate technical leader who has proven capability in the delivery of complex IT services. They will have very clear vision on how best to build scalable service based systems. They will be exceptionally well versed in the techniques and tools available for building complex systems and will be adept at maintaining current knowledge of best practice.

Essential Skills and Experience

- At least 3 years in a technical leadership role
- Will have taken technical ownership of the successful delivery of at least one major IT system
- Strong coding experience in Java, together with frameworks like Spring and Play
- Strong knowledge of service based solutions built in Java
- Clear solutions orientated thinker
- Good knowledge of common open source frameworks
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Good knowledge of the principles and best practice in computer security
- Deep knowledge of Unix/Linux operating system principles
- Deep networking knowledge
- Knowledge of transaction database systems
- Proven system design experience
- A strong interest in best practice software engineering, including continuous integration, test automation, code quality assurance etc.
- A keen reader about technology
- Strategic thinker
- A natural enthusiasm for technology and the ability to excite and engage other software engineers
- Ability to influence at all levels from individual developer to executive

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Desirable Skills and Experience

- Knowledge of functional languages like Scala
- Knowledge and interest in energy management and renewables
- Experience in embedded systems
- A strong numerate academic qualification in a subject like Computer Science