

Ken McHugh, Software Designer



Ken is based in the UK.

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Originally from Ireland Ken has also spent time in both Canada and the US prior to coming to the UK. Ken completed his diploma in Computer Science at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, having been given an exemption from the language specific portion of the courses providing he help tutor other students in the course. Ken also spent time in the Canadian military progressing through the ranks until becoming a Sergeant. Ken started his career as a hardware technician prior to beginning his Computer Science course and soon moved on to a junior developer role for a nation wide Laundromat collection company in Toronto to develop software using Visual FoxPro. Within three months in this role Ken's love for languages became apparent and he was promoted to intermediate developer where he was given projects in DBaseIV, VB6.0, C++ and Java as well as the role of Junior DBA to work alongside and learn from the on site DBA. During this time Ken was responsible for developing a thin client to host the FoxPro windows application using Terminal Service like technology and speeding up the response times for all remote locations by over 150%. He also modified some of the APIs controlling the industrial coin sorting and counting machines saving the company from replacing over 1000 machines, in turn saving the company hundreds of thousands of dollars. Ken also helped in changing the design philosophy of the company from a procedural only philosophy to a much more cost effective object oriented approach. While Ken was working for this company he also received his Microsoft MCP (Microsoft Certified Professional), MCSD (Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer) and MCDBA (Microsoft Certified Database Administrator).

Ken then moved on to a consulting company where he worked on many different projects in areas ranging from cruise ship auctions in Miami Florida to city parking collection software for the City of Toronto. Once again Ken brought the object oriented paradigm into play and also brought the language of c# to the company. Ken began developing developer tools and software frameworks to pass on to clients and to help client IT Departments work faster and better.

After moving to the UK Ken joined another consulting company where he widened his range of experience in the field by adding projects from publishing, manufacturing, and government sectors to his portfolio.

Ken is interested in languages and how they work, cryptography, security, mathematics, graphics to name a few areas. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Software Engineering at the University of Oxford.