Sebastian – Corneliu Vîrlan

-- Senior Lead Software Engineer --

Personal Details

Contact Details	Me
City: Salford, Manchester	**Gender**: Male
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About Me

My career in programming started back in 2008 when I built a successful Romanian social platform *Angel and Demon* - https://isd.sebastianvirlan.com/ (previously http://ingersidemon.ro). I worked on this project for approximately 2 years, work that stopped due to the rise in popularity of Facebook. This gave me the opportunity to work as a professional Web Software Engineer for a local business. This lasted for 12 months due to circumstances out of my control, I then switched back to working as a freelancer where I built various software solutions for different local companies. Between 2015 - 2018 I grow up professionally as Senior Web Software Engineer in Romania and UK.

In September 2018 I decided to move from doing WEB development to something different and I joined BBC as Platform Software Engineer, where I am responsible for the design of software, and for implementation and operation of effective software and tools.

At the end of 2019, I decided to join TalkTalk as a Senior Lead Software Engineer where I am responsible with the technical leadership of the squads. Being one of the first people in the squad we started by hiring more developers, managers and principles, defining strategies like what technologies to be used, choosing a branching model, defining code guidelines and standards. In this role I had the opportunity to work closely with SD, BA and PO helping defining requirements, and seeking for the most optimal solutions. In January 2021 we released to production the new https://talktalk.co.uk .

Education

Suceava, SV, RO „Ștefan Cel Mare" University of Suceava 2008 – 2016

- M.S.E., Computer Science and Engineering, July 2016
- B.S.E., Computer Engineering, July 2014

For more details about the coursework please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/education/

Skills, Experience, Worked With

- Leveraged Knowledge in WEB Development, Full Stack Development
- Expertise in many mainstream development language/frameworks
  - Programming Languages: C#, PHP, Ruby, JS/TS, Swift, Clojure
  - Backend Frameworks: DotNet, Ruby on Rails, Laravel, CodeIgniter, Smarty
- Competence in database design and use in software applications
  - MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB
- Real Time Communication with Sockets
- Good Understanding of DevOps practices
- Experience of professional software development processes (Agile)
- Very Good understandings of OOP/ functional principles and design patterns
- Git and it's features
- Containerisation software platforms like Docker, I used to do video tutorials about "How to deploy modern WEB applications with Docker".
- Expertise in automatic deployment, scaling and management of containerized applications using Kubernetes
- Tests using automated test-driven techniques for ensuring code quality and good coverage
- Mentoring junior engineers / starters
- Computer Science degree + Computer Science and Engineering Master's Degree

Publications

- **Modular JavaScript Facebook Application Tutorial** - https://assist-software.net/snippets/how-save-data-amazon-dynamodb-using-ruby-on-rails
- **Workshop Ruby on Rails (CRUD and API tutorial)** - https://assist-software.net/snippets/ruby-rails-crud-and-api-tutorial
- **How to save data to Amazon Dynamo DB using Ruby on Rails** - https://assist-software.net/snippets/modular-javascript-facebook-application-tutorial
- **Video Tutorials - Deploy Modern Applications with Docker**, based on a contract with the PackPub company.
- **Posts on my Programming Blog** - http://sebastianvirlan.com/blog/

Speaker

- **Journey to Success** @ "Ștefan The Great" University of Suceava
- **Choose the right CI Tool for your team** @ BBC Manchester
- **Mentor** @ CodeUp Manchester & CodeUp Salford

Work Experience

Senior Lead Software Engineer at TalkTalk Manchester September 2019 – Present

Had the opportunity to be part of the entire project lifecycle. Product released to Production in January 2021. http://talktalk.co.uk (the new Brochureware website)

- Branching Model Strategy
- Coding Standards and Guidelines
- Software Design such as Architectural Design (domain driven micro-services, public facing APIs, databases, caching)
- Software Development
- Testing Strategy
- Build and Release Pipelines
- Environments based on Development and Business Requirements
- Monitoring and Logging
- Ensuring resilience and transient-fault-handling (retries, circuit-breakers for downstream API calls)
- [Rollover Keys for Data Encryption (PII)](#)
- Performance Testing Strategy
- Programming Languages: C#, TypeScript
- Frameworks: DotNet, Angular
- Technologies: Docker, Kubernetes, Helm
- Cloud: Azure
- Mentoring / Coaching
- Interviewing
- Defining On-Call Strategy

For more details about what I do at TalkTalk please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/talktalk-manchester/

Platform Software Engineer at BBC MediaCityUK September 2018 – September 2019

- Designed and built Data Transformation Workflows that uses Clojure components and Kafka Topics to consume messages and publishes them to S3.
- Ensured quality with unit and integration tests and applying TDD
- Research on a list of CI tools for choosing the best fit for the team
- Work with project, product and technical leads to design software and create implementable specifications and tasks at feature and component level
- Part of my day to day tasks is to review and give constructive feedback on others code
- Utilised: JavaScript, TypeScript, Clojure, Docker, K8s, Kafka, Jira, Jenkins

For more details about what I did at the BBC please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/bbc-manchester/

Senior Software Engineer TheFloow LTD. Sheffield, UK July 2017 – August 2018

- Improved existing code using SOLID design principles.
- The development of a framework to increase code re-usability.
- Developed web applications using Ruby, Ruby on Rails Framework and MySQL databases.

- Ensured quality with unit testing and minimum 80% test coverage.
- Utilised: Ruby, Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, Kafka, Docker, Jira, Bamboo

For more details about my work at TheFloow please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/the-floow-sheffield/

Senior Software Engineer Assist Software Suceava, Romania September 2015 – July 2017

- Applied clean code practices and design patterns to develop readable, maintainable and scalable code for web applications.
- Optimized legacy code and improved performance across many projects.
- Lead Developer on a team of 4 people that together we developed a BOT for a Strategic Management Virtual Game for SMES web app.
- Lead Developer on a team of 3 people where we successfully implemented all the client's requirements.
- Integrated software with monitoring and support tools
- Utilised: PHP, Laravel, Ruby, Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, Vapor Swift, Docker, RedMine

For more details about my work at Assist Software please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/assist-software-suceava/

Freelancer – 15 March 2011 – August 2015

After working at Enovation HD, I became a Freelancer, and I start building software solutions for Romanian companies. I was mainly focused on building online shops, using WordPress or eCommerce platforms. One of the biggest challenges came later, when I built a Real Estate platform.

For more details about my work in freelancing time please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/freelancer/

Software Engineer at Enovation HD 15 March 2010 – 15 March 2011

- Developed static HTML websites for clients
- Developed an eCommerce website using Joomla CMS.

For more details about what I did at Ennovation HD please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/enovation-hd-suceava/

Other Side Projects

- Angel and Demon Social Platform (2008) – https://www.isd.sebastianvirlan.com
- Maps Journey Replay (2018) – https://github.com/sebastianvirlan/maps-journey-replay
- Radar Scanner Animation in Swift for IOS (2019)
- Real Estate Platform (2017)
- FoxStorm - TypeScript Web Framework inspired by Laravel & Rails (2019) https://github.com/FoxStorm

For more details about my personal / open-source projects please read my post on:
https://sebastianvirlan.com/software-engineer/my-projects/