Paul Donohue

Overview

During his 25+ year career Paul has worked as an architect, team leader, system designer, analyst, developer, author and trainer.

He is currently the Lead Architect on Suncorp Bank's core systems replacement project which will replace the bank's legacy systems with the Oracle Banking Platform.

In this role, Paul has end to end ownership of the solution architecture. He provides technical leadership to the team and works with stakeholders at all levels. He produces high level architectural solutions, resolves detailed design issues, manages scope and chairs the technical governance forum. Paul forges strong relationships with the vendors who assist Suncorp's delivery of their new banking platform.

Paul's contribution to Suncorp Bank was recently recognised at the annual Peak Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

Contact

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Achievements

Designed solution architectures for a wide range of projects in industries such as banking, insurance, reinsurance and gambling.

Recognised at Suncorp Bank's annual Peak Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

Nominated by his peers at Suncorp to attend a forum for the organisation's "thought leaders".

Outsourced support of a core insurance claims system to a team from IBM China.

Presented a session at the Sybase TechWave conference in San Diego and delivered an XML training seminar for the Sybase Users Group in Zurich.

Published articles in technical journals.

Founded a niche software consultancy servicing investment banks in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Teamed with IBM's jStart (emerging technology group) to prepare a joint proposal for a European banking industry organisation.

Skills

Solution Architecture

Technical Leadership. Provided technical leadership for projects; advising the project manager and business sponsor, providing guidance to team members and making key technical decisions.

Solution Architecture. Designed the end to end solution for major projects and documented this as "Conceptual Solutions" which provided stakeholders with a comprehensive, high level overview of what was to be delivered.

Agile Architecture. Worked in an Agile software development environment and explored ways architects can add value in such an environment.

Service Oriented Architecture. Championed, designed and oversaw implementation of a SOA to integrate with internal & external systems.

Model Driven Architecture. Helped to establish a common insurance domain model from which data models and XSDs could be automatically generated.

Physical Architecture. Worked with infrastructure stakeholders to implement physical architectures which maximised asset utilisation.

Product Evaluation. Evaluated commercial software packages including preparation of RFIs, evaluation of responses and running proof of concept trials.

Product Implementation. Assisted with the implementation of commercial software packages with a focus on integration and minimising customisation to preserve the upgrade path.

Strategic Planning. Prepared technology road maps and assisted business stakeholders with their strategies.

Total Cost of Ownership. Ensured solutions minimised TCO and prepared TCO studies to compare potential solutions.

Complaince with Standards. Ensured solution architectures adhered to corporate standards and leveraged existing corporate services. Leveraged industry standards such as the ACORD standard for insurance messaging.

Analysis & Design

Requirements Elaboration. Identified and elaborated business and technical requirements using story cards and use cases.

Process Modelling. Modelled complex business and technical scenarios using Unified Modelling Language (UML) techniques such as sequence, state and class diagrams.

Data Modelling. Analysed data requirements and prepared logical and physical data models.

Design Specification. Prepared detailed technical specifications making use of design patterns where appropriate.

Development

Development Methodologies. Experienced with numerous development methodologies including Agile, RUP, Test Driven Development and Waterfall.

Application Development. Developed a myriad of solutions using PowerBuilder, Visual Basic, Microsoft Access and XML. Paul used COBOL & C in the early years of his career and has a working knowledge of Java and .Net (C#).

Database Development. Designed and implemented Sybase, Microsoft and Oracle databases including stored procedures, triggers & indexes.

Prototyping. Used prototypes to clarify user interface issues and improve usability.

Testing. Prepared and executed unit and system test plans with some exposure to automated testing tools.

Support. Provided support for production systems including being on call 24/7. Implemented and tested disaster recovery plans.

Management

Project Management. Managed small projects from inception to implementation in both Agile and Waterfall environments. Balanced issues of scope, time, cost, risk, quality & resources.

Partner Management. Instrumental in outsourcing support of a core insurance claims system to IBM China. This involved working with the vendor to clarify contractual issues, devising gating criteria and an extended posting to Shanghai to ensure the transition was smoothly executed.

Estimation. Prepared detailed estimates for multi million dollar projects and revised them at each stage of the development cycle to improve their accuracy.

Team Leading. Guided development teams. Duties included task allocation, mentoring, performance appraisal, quality assurance and overall responsibility for the team's performance.

Requirements Management. Participated on change control boards and implemented systems to track requirements, defects and enhancements.

Process Management. Prepared a software development process that drew on aspects of the Rational Unified Process (RUP) and Agile methodologies. Defined and enforced standards for development, testing, implementation and support.

Communication

Stakeholder Engagement. Comfortable engaging with stakeholders at all levels. Some examples;

- As a Solution Architect, Paul regularly interacts with people from across the Suncorp Group including development teams, infrastructure, networks, security, operations, corporate services, investigations and the actuaries.
- As founder of Acrucis, Paul liaised with executives from JPMorgan, Citibank, Deutsche Bank, Bank of New York and BNP Paribas in London, Brussels and Sydney.
- As a shareholder activist, Paul organised a company recapitalisation requiring interaction with shareholders, employees, lawyers, journalists, venture capitalists, investment bankers and a Senator.

Technical Background. Thanks to his technical background Paul can communicate effectively with architects, analysts, developers and testers. He is particularly good at explaining complex concepts to non technical people.

Public Speaking. Presented a session at a Sybase conference in San Diego and was the keynote speaker at an XML conference in Zurich.

Publications. Published articles in the PowerBuilder Developer's Journal. Paul's work with PowerBuilder and XML was also featured in a Sybase white paper.

Training. Qualified as a trainer and delivered computing classes at TAFE. Paul prepared and executed a comprehensive knowledge transfer plan for an outsourced team in Shanghai.

Mentoring. Assisted with the professional developmet of junior technical staff by acting as a mentor.

Interviewing. Prepared selection criteria, interviewed candidates and tested their technical skills.

Technical Writing. Prepared reports for many different audiences including feasibility studies, standards documents and project status reports.

Web Design. Designed and implemented web sites using DreamWeaver.

Agile

Iteration Management. Acted as Iteration Manager including running stand ups, iteration planning meetings, show cases and retrospectives.

Backlog Management. Actively managed the backlog to control scope and prioritise requirements.

Elaboration. Elaborated requirements using story cards.

Spikes. Performed spikes to prove proposed solutions were feasible and mitigate technical risk.

History

Suncorp – Solution Architect
Brisbane

Mar 2012 - Present

Suncorp is Queensland's largest bank. Paul is currently the Lead Architect on a core systems replacement project which will replace the bank's legacy systems with the Oracle Banking Platform.

In this role, Paul has end to end ownership of the solution architecture. He provides technical leadership to the team and works with stakeholders at all levels. He produces high level architectural solutions, resolves detailed design issues, manages scope and chairs the technical governance forum. Paul forges strong relationships with the vendors who assist Suncorp's delivery of their new banking platform.

Suncorp Insurance – Solution Architect
Brisbane

Apr 2007 – Mar 2012
59 months

Suncorp is Australia's second largest insurance company. In this role, Paul was a Solution Architect on the new insurance claims system – Guidewire ClaimCenter. His area of expertise within the team was integration with corporate applications such as customer, policy, financials and document management.

Paul was instrumental in outsourcing ClaimCenter support to IBM China. This involved working with the vendor to clarify contractual issues, devising gating criteria and preparation of a comprehensive knowledge transfer plan. Paul was posted to Shanghai to ensure the transition was smoothly executed.

Tabcorp – Solution Architect
Brisbane

<div align="right">Apr 2004 – April 2007
36 months</div>

Tabcorp is Australia's premier gambling and entertainment group with interests in casinos, wagering, Keno and hotels. Paul was a Solution Architect in the Strategy & Architecture group.

Acrucis – Solution Architect
Brisbane

<div align="right">Jan 2003 – Apr 2004
15 months</div>

Acrucis is a niche software consultancy servicing investment banks in the United Kingdom and Australia. Paul founded the company and was its Solution Architect.

Travel

<div align="right">Jul 2002 – Jan 2003
6 months</div>

Paul and his wife spent six months in a camper van exploring England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain & Portugal.

JP Morgan – Team Leader & System Designer
London

<div align="right">Feb 2000 – Jul 2002
30 months</div>

JP Morgan is one of the world's largest investment banks. Paul was a Team Leader & Systems Designer in the Debt Capital Market group.

Lloyds of London (Equitas) – Development Team Leader
London

<div align="right">Nov 1997 – Jan 2000
26 months</div>

Equitas, one of the world's largest reinsurance companies, manages the long term liabilities of Lloyds of London. Paul was the Development Team Leader during the year 2000 era.

Motability Finance – Senior Developer
London

<div align="right">Jul 1996 – Oct 1997
15 months</div>

Motability Finance Limited is the largest automobile leasing firm in Europe. Paul was a Senior Developer, supervising a team of 3 developers and preparing specifications.

PowerPlus – Consultant
Brisbane

<div align="right">May 1996 – Jun 1996
2 months</div>

Paul performed a short consultancy with PowerPlus, the Queensland distributor for PowerBuilder, before moving to the United Kingdom.

Canegrowers – Senior Analyst / Programmer
Brisbane

<div align="right">May 1993 – May 1996
36 months</div>

Canegrowers is an industry body which represents the Australian sugar cane industry. Paul worked there as a Senior Analyst / Programmer and helped them transition from COBOL to client server.

Technology One – Senior Analyst / Programmer
Brisbane

<div align="right">Apr 1992 – Apr 1993
12 months</div>

Technology One is one of Australia's largest software houses. Paul worked as a Senior Analyst / Programmer on their flagship product – Finance One.

Suncorp – Senior Analyst / Programmer
Brisbane

<div align="right">Jan 1989 – Feb 1992
37 months</div>

Paul worked in Suncorp's Life Insurance group as a Senior Analyst / Programmer.

Department of Defence – Analyst / Programmer
Canberra

<div align="right">Feb 1987 – Dec 1988
22 months</div>

Paul joined the Department of Defence after graduating and worked on one of the largest IT projects in Australia, a system to revitalise the Defence Force's supply network. This background in large scale software development has proved invaluable during his career.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Computing

University of Central Queensland (1992)

Associate Diploma in Computing

Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education (1986)

Train the Trainer

Southbank TAFE (1993)

References

Available on request.

Further Information

Visit Paul's web site, www.pauldonohue.com, to download examples of his publications and public speaking engagements.