

Curriculum Vitae: James Duncan Christie BA MSc MBCS CITP

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Professional Qualifications & Bodies Chartered IT Professional & professional member of the British Computer Society (MBCS) ISEB Practitioner Certificate in Software Testing Member of the Usability Professionals Association (UPA) and Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA)

James is currently working as a freelance consultant through his own limited company, Claro Testing Ltd. In 2007 he successfully completed a full-time MSc in IT at the University of Abertay. His master's project and dissertation, for which he received an A grade, was "Integrating usability testing with formal software testing models". He is particularly interested in how the quality of applications can be improved by incorporating usability engineering and testing techniques.

James has 25 years commercial IT experience, covering test management (the full life-cycle from agreeing the strategy and budget, writing the test plans, supervising execution, through to implementation) and test consultancy (writing and reviewing testing processes). His experience also covers information security management, project management, IT audit, systems analysis and programming. This has been largely in financial services, mainly with General Accident and IBM (working with a range of blue-chip clients).

James is keen to use testing models that move beyond the traditional V Model. See his website (www.clarotesting.com/page7.htm) for more information.

James left IBM when he had the chance to take voluntary redundancy which allowed him to pursue his ambition to take a Masters degree.

Work Experience

Apr 08 -

Writing, research, training, charity work

James has undertaken further study and research for the specialist consultancy service he's offering incorporating usability engineering techniques into software testing. He has written articles for Testing Experience magazine (www.testingexperience.com), one on the limitations of the V Model, another about the implications for usability testing of off-shoring development and one on "business logic" security testing, which also appeared in Security Acts magazine (www.securityacts.com). The latest article is about how formal testing standards influence the attitudes and behaviour of testers.

He has written an article for TEST magazine (www.testmagazine.co.uk) on the troubled relationship between usability professionals and software engineers and written a lead comment piece about the need for testers to be regarded as developers.

He has also been carrying out work for the charity of which he is a trustee.

Oct 07 - Apr 08

Project Test Manager, Norwich Union Life, York

James was working at NU Life as test manager on a large migration programme jointly run by NU and Swiss Re. He wrote the master test plan for the Finance Project, supervised the detailed test planning, and managed the test execution, which involved both UK and offshore staff.

Mar 07 - Oct 07

Business start-up, further training and charity work

James passed the ISEB Practitioner Certificate in Software Testing. He also developed an accountancy package for the charity of which he is a trustee.

Jan 07 - Mar 07

Freelance IT Consultant, Scripture Union Scotland

James carried out an IT audit, reviewing the security of the IT operation, and the use being made of IT. He followed that up with the production of a plan for a Business Continuity Programme, and a staff IT security policy with educational material.

Aug 04 - Jul 05

Test Manager & Consultant, IBM Global Services, Application Management Services

James worked on three projects; as the test manager for a brief internal IBM development, as a consultant on the planning and conduct of operational acceptance testing for an IBM SAP implementation at J&C Clarks in Somerset, and as test manager on an IBM project at the Dept for Work & Pensions in Blackpool.

May 01 - Aug 04

Security Transition Manager, IBM Global Services, Strategic Outsourcing, Service Delivery Security

As a Security Transition Manager James was responsible for running projects to identify and agree the required level of information security for new outsourced accounts.

This entailed documenting the client's information security requirements and planning the work required to deliver these requirements whilst complying with the contract and IBM information security standards. James had to ensure that the existing security service was baselined, and agree with IBM management and the customer the roles and responsibilities

for delivering security, and ensure that IBM set up an appropriate organisational structure and processes.

James' clients were Nokia (Finland), Boots (Nottingham) and AstraZeneca (Cheshire).

Apr 97 - Apr 01 Test Manager & Consultant, IBM Global Services, Application Management Services
During this spell James worked mainly at the General Accident (latterly Norwich Union) Account as a test manager on projects related to Y2K and also integrating systems following client mergers. All of the projects were completed successfully and on time. He also reviewed and recommended improvements to testing processes.

He also worked as a test consultant at the IBM account at Cazenove in London and at the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, defining new testing processes for both clients. This work was mostly in IBM mainframe MVS environments (CICS, Cobol & DB2), but also covered midrange Unix platforms and Oracle.

Feb 94 - Apr 97 Project Leader & Business Analyst - General Accident, Perth
James successfully led three sub-projects within GA's strategic MI project. This role provided valuable experience of project management, definition of user requirements, handling customer relationships and team leading.
James joined IBM in November 1996 when GA outsourced its UK IT function to IBM. He was immediately seconded back to GA to define the outline business requirements for new MI data warehousing systems, and to review a business critical accounting system to decide whether it should be replaced before 2000 or made Y2K compliant.

Jan 88 - Feb 94 Computer Auditor & Senior Computer Auditor, Internal Audit Dept, General Accident, Perth
James conducted reviews covering IT security, operational systems, and IT processes and practices. He also provided internal consultancy to user management during IT developments, developed fraud detection programs, took part in fraud investigations and represented General Accident on the Audit Panel of the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

Jan 83 - Dec 87 Programmer, Analyst Programmer & IS Analyst, Information Services, General Accident, Perth
James worked on a variety of projects, mainly using Cobol, SAS, Easytrieve Plus, all on IBM mainframes, running MVS & VM.

Mar 81 - July 82 Assistant Investment Accountant, Investment Division, Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society, Glasgow.

Sep 80 - Mar 81 Student chartered accountant, Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, Glasgow

Published Work

- December 08 "The seductive and dangerous V model", Testing Experience magazine, issue 4. www.testingexperience.com
- March 09 "What happens to usability when development goes offshore?", Testing Experience magazine, issue 5.
- June 09 / Oct 09 "Business logic security testing and fraud", Testing Experience magazine, issue 6 & Security Acts magazine, issue 1. www.securityacts.com.
- September 09 "Bridging the gap with Agile - the troubled relationship between UX and software engineering", T.E.S.T magazine, vol 1 issue 6. www.testmagazine.co.uk
- September 09 "Testers and coders are both developers", T.E.S.T magazine website lead comment article, www.testmagazine.co.uk/2009/09/testers-and-coders-are-both-developers
- December 09 "Do standards keep testers in the kindergarten?", Testing Experience magazine, issue 8.

Training Record

- Nov 2002 ISEB Certificate in Information Security Management (passed with distinction)
- Feb 2005 ISEB Foundation Certificate in Software Testing
- Oct 2006 Usability Testing (E-testing Consultancy)
- Jun 2007 ISEB Practitioner Certificate in Software Testing

Educational History

- 2005-2007 University of Abertay, Dundee. MSc IT.
- 1982 ADM Ltd, Glasgow. Government TOPS course in Programming & Systems Analysis
- 1979 - 1980 University of Stirling. Postgraduate Certificate in Accountancy
- 1975 - 1978 University of Lancaster. BA Economics and Financial Control
- 1970 - 1975 Tadcaster Grammar School, North Yorkshire, England. 4 A levels (including French & German), 9 O levels, + German Higher (1993)

Skills

Lotus Smartsuite, MS Office, MS Project, PMW, Windows XP, HP Quality Center