

CURRICULUM VITAE

PETER GROOM

B.Eng. (Hons), C.Eng, MIEE, SMIEEE, MBCS, CISSP

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Turned around a 'basket case' IT division into one that drove the business
- Part of the senior management team that managed through a period of huge business change (more than 80% of the group vanished over night) and very high pressure.
- Tactically outsourced parts of software development & testing to Belgrade and India, whilst simultaneously implementing Agile development (Scrum) for parts of the software lifecycle.
- Able to make non-IT business decisions as embedded within the business and understood the drivers
- Created a global IT strategy & architecture that was scalable and agile
- Ensured that the business prioritized what projects IT carried out and in what order.

CAREER REVIEW - HIGHLIGHTS

IT Director (EMEA) promoted to CTO Sportingbet

Jul 2005 – TO DATE

Founded in 1998, Sportingbet Plc was amongst the pioneers of Online Gaming. Today, it is a quoted company with over £1.4bn of revenue and operates in 30 countries worldwide. Its core product, Sports Book, is supplemented by Casino, Poker and Games offerings.

CTO

- Working with the Board to deliver optimum global IT solutions. Having successfully 'turned around' IT in Europe, the challenge was to implement these changes throughout the group, with a backdrop of huge business changes.
- Provided guidance in relation to the technological and commercial impact of the following business projects:
 - Sale of the US business to Jazette and the subsequent technology & people splits,
 - Offshoring of Customer Services and Fraud departments to Dublin, followed by the rest of the organization (and production systems) to Guernsey
 - The amalgamating of Boss and Paradise Poker (at a technological & commercial level, including the subsequent disposal of Mindspace Technologies).
- Implemented Agile methodology (Scrum) into Software Development & Testing and scaled up the internal teams from 14 to 60, with a further 50 outsourced offshore to Belgrade and India.
- Sponsored a new global architecture, called 'N-Silo', that will allow the number of disparate systems to be reduced, allow downtime to be taken during quiet periods for each continent, provide shared purse functionality and use parallelism to boost production capacity.

IT Director (EMEA)

- The objective of this role was to take an existing IT function and turn it into a world leader. The business had undergone a period of rapid growth with revenues increasing by 3.5x year on year between 2005 and 2006. The IT department needed to support the rapidly expanding business.
- Business Restructuring. The existing structure was deemed inefficient and was therefore restructured into 5 distinct areas – Projects, Operations, Infrastructure, Internal Development and Outsourced Development. Each area had a Head, who were responsible for managing their team and produced 'get-well plans' under my overall guidance. This change enabled increased accountability and control.
- Production capacity was increased from 4,500 bets per hour to over 21,000 on Grand National 2006 and from 12,000 bets per day to 190,000. Ongoing, the Tuning Group made up of representatives from all of the IT teams and 3rd parties, optimizes and tunes the systems. For Grand National 2007, the daily bet capacity has been increased to 320,000 bets per day.
- Advised the Board on all IT matters, including acquisition targets.

**Head of Production promoted to Head of Systems
Lastminute**

May 2004 – Jun 2005

Lastminute, one of the best known online travel & leisure successes from the dot com era, was started in 1998 by Brent Hoberman & Martha Lane-Fox. It attracts over 2.5m visitors every week to its pan European web sites. Bought in 2005 by Travelocity, it is now part of the Sabre Group.

Head of Systems

- Improved and automated the service provided across the Lastminute.com group including its 8 subsidiaries (AllHotels, HolidayAutos, TravelSelect, TravelStore, HolidaysandMore, First Options, MedHotels and OTC). Synergies had been gained with my previous role as Head of Production and the objective was to transfer these benefits to the rest of the business.
- Responsible for 4 departments – Server Support, Systems Engineering, Data Centre and Network & Security. – 50 staff in total, 15 in the UK and remainder offshore.
- Used remit as a troubleshooter to move freely across the whole of IT and the business, resolving problems, instituting pragmatic processes where necessary and using influencing & communication skills to bring about change in areas where I had no direct authority.

Head of Production

- Head hunted by the Lastminute CTO, ex MD of Credit Suisse First Boston, who needed an experienced troubleshooter to improve IT efficiency whilst remaining within budget targets.
- Responsible for the restructuring of the Technical Operations and Database Administration teams, this consisted of 30 staff within the UK with a further 45 outsourced offshore. The reorganisation and restructure enabled the teams to work more efficiently and effectively. Noticeable improvements were made within a 5 month period rather than the 2 years originally predicted.

**VP EMEA Operations CaST (Connectivity & Security)
Credit Suisse First Boston**

2001 – 2004

Credit Suisse First Boston is the investment banking arm of the Swiss based Credit Suisse Group. The Group has revenues in excess of \$78.2bn and \$1.2trillion of assets under management. In 2006, the Credit Suisse First Boston name was retired so that Credit Suisse brand could be used for all services.

- Locally responsible for 24 people on a follow-the-sun basis with dotted line responsibility to nearly 50 globally.
- Operationally responsible for all aspects of both centralized and distributed networked Internet facing environments, across 14 sites globally. This included Ecommerce, VPN and Browsing infrastructures which passed over 88Gb of data daily.
- Responsible for all EMEA Third Party connections utilizing over 150 firewall pairs, including links some nearly 500 exchanges, third party vendors and remote applications. During the core hours of the day, the team was responsible for the global infrastructure of nearly 400 firewall pairs and over 1000 Cisco switches/routers.

**IT Consultant
Level(3) Communications**

1999 - 2001

Level(3) Communications operates one of the largest communications and Internet backbones in the world. It covers all of the US and most of Europe with its primary focus being the sale of large bandwidth connections to telecom carriers & ISPs etc. Its backbone carries over 5.1 petabytes daily.

- Designer and chief architect for a global data fault management implementation, including disaster recovery. In order to reduce costs, the system was extended to include all servers. This project took 12 months to implement and cost over \$2 million, using HP OpenView VantagePoint, which had to be partly rewritten to support the all of the servers. Once implemented, the system was receiving over 300,000 alerts every day and looked at by a team of 20 NOC engineers globally.

Data Communications Analyst promoted to Technical Consultant
CSC Computer Sciences Corporation (BhS & Autoglass accounts)

1996 - 1999

CSC is a leading global consulting, systems integration and outsourcing company with revenues in excess of \$16.5bn. It has 90,000 employees in 80 countries worldwide and counts some of the biggest names in the world amongst its client list, ranging from NASA to the NHS.

Technical Consultant

- Installed and administered a 15000+ nodes LAN and WAN HP OpenView system, running on an HP 9000 node using HP-UX v.10.20 and Solaris 2.6, running on an Oracle 7.3.4 database. Also responsible for the installation and administration of UNIX implementations of CiscoWorks, Optivity and Transcend.
- Responsible for planning several major sections of a new BhS Head Office and moved the entire Autoglass Head Office (3 satellite buildings into a central HQ).

Data Communications Analyst

- Responsible for the management of a 2000+ node WAN (using DEC VAXs, VMS and Ingres) and a 1000+ node LAN for a client, using Sun Sparcs, Solaris and Informix.

Graduate Trainee promoted to Communications Technician
Thames Water Utilities

1992 - 1996

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and sewerage company. It serves 13 million customers across London and the Thames Valley. With its headquarters in Reading, the company has over 5000 employees.

Communications Technician

- Responsible for 5 communications networks, totaling nearly 100 nodes, including FDDI & X.25 bridge and router networks, including the addressing for both the TCP/IP and DECnet aspects.
- Responsible for the 80km Thames Water Ring Main fibre optic cable. This required the use of OTDRs and optical loss meters to diagnose breaks.

Graduate Trainee

- Achieved the IEE's structured training requirements in half the usual time.
- Wrote Invitations to Tender, specifications, feasibility studies and criticality assessments.

Student Electronic Systems Engineer
AEI Cables (GEC)

1988 - 1992

The General Electric Company (GEC) was a major UK company involved in consumer and defence electronics, communications and engineering. It was renamed to Marconi Corporation in 1999 and bought by Ericsson in 2005.

- Responsibility for project management, design & maintenance engineering. Completed projects ranged from creating new instrumentation panels to writing an 8000 line C++ program to monitor batch processing.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Interested in goshin ju-jitsu and the Earth's magnetic field

CONTACT DETAILS

Mobile: 07710 745360
Email: net_know@hotmail.com