Markos Charatzas
Head of Mobile - Software Engineer - Product Owner
BSc (Hons) Information Technology - University of Sunderland

Profile

Have been at the helm of both Tesco Bank and Soldo to bring organisational change and deliver their iPhone apps. Have a software engineering background, experienced in iOS and Java EE. A product owner, that conceived, designed, implemented, funded and brought to life Windmill.

Experience

iOS Developer

Feb17 - Jun17 (4m)

Aludio (London, UK)

* No. 3 hire, brought on board by the Head of Engineering and CEO.
* Lead the project delivery of the ACORN MVP iOS app.
* Established a development process to manage requirements, plan work, provide feedback.
* Acted in an advisory capacity to the CEO at a product/mobile level.
* Involved in architectural decisions across the mobile app and the backend API.
* Core developer of the iPhone app.

Head of Mobile

Sep15 - Nov16 (1 year, 2m)

Soldo (London, UK)
www.soldo.com

* Transformed the company to think in terms of user requirements to drive the development.
* Transformed the company to think in terms of agile to manage software delivery.
* Established project management practices and development processes.
* Improved communication between teams in London and Rome to deliver quality software.
* Educated the product team to think in terms of mobile as a platform and leverage iOS.
* Introduced the idea of continuous development, continuous delivery across the business.
* Spearheaded the development of Soldo - The Family Spending Account on the iPhone.
* Ensured security recommendations from Head of Security were upheld.
* Implemented a Salted Challenge Response Authentication Mechanism on Swift.
* Positioned customer support closer to the product and development teams to create a customer feedback loop and to triage defects quickly.
* Performed a 2 day training to introduce agile practices to product and development teams.
* Setup Xcode bots to use as a continuous integration/delivery pipeline for releases.
* Maintained a decision register for every critical decision taken that impacted the release.
* Maintained a security register to identify and record how sensitive data is stored securely.
* Planned a hiring process, conducted technical and cultural fit interviews to recruit mobile developers.
* Directly managed 2 developers, established work responsibilities and steered culture.

iOS Developer

Oct13 - Mar15 (1 year, 4m)

Tesco Bank (Edinburgh, UK)
www.tescobank.com

* Responsible for the technical delivery of Tesco Bank Mobile Banking on the iPhone.
* Spearheaded the development of a Release pipeline for continuous delivery of iOS apps.
* Established an iOS team for in house development.
* Implemented code to check for outdated security policies, download and run security checks.
* Implemented lazy, dynamic grouping of partial data fetched over the network for a table view.
* Profiled (memory footprint, CPU usage, codebase) an existing iPhone app, evaluated the risk and wrote an engineering report on actions to take.
* Setup CI from the ground up using Jenkins integrated with Bitbucket to make nightly builds available via an Apache Web Server.
* Devised a strategy to maintain multiple releases in different stages (development, testing, production) and using different build settings.
* Devised a strategy for continuous delivery of releases for UAT and back end integration.
* Devised a strategy to decouple development from integration of 3rd party libraries as part of a build pipeline.
* Devised a strategy to securely deliver an iPhone app over-the-air for up to 1500 users using AWS.
* Devised a strategy to create server configurations and run nightly builds of an iPhone app to have releases against different back end environments.

* Automated codebase metrics to measure overall complexity and impact on functionality.
* Wrote a defects policy to manage risk associated with a release.
* Initiated development of an internal webpage to act as an in-house app store.
* Communicating with stakeholders across the organisation.
* Advising senior management on development practices, testing strategies and risk mitigation on project deliveries.
* Talks and writings to communicate ideas across business and engineering.
* Planned a hiring process, conducted technical and cultural fit interviews to recruit iOS developers

iOS Developer

Jun11 - Oct13 (2 years, 5m)

NCR (Edinburgh, UK)
www.ncr.com

* Core developer in 2 iPhone and 1 iPad app with a client/server architecture
* Technical Lead on a project of 3 code bases (iPhone, Android, JEE) and responsible for 4 people.
* Involved in all aspects of the software process (wireframe, design, development, build, release)
* Involved in documenting development processes and software design.
* Developed an endless scrolling, in memory, table view for paging data over the network.
* Developed a role based, feature availability for an iPhone app that is server driven.
* Devised a strategy to convert an existing iPhone code base to universal.
* Developed a maven plugin for automating blackberry builds (sign, verify)
* Presented tech talks on object oriented programming and unit testing.

Java Developer
Fixed Contract

Jun10 – Mar11 (10 months)

Helixion (Edinburgh, UK)

* Designed and developed an API to perform authentication, exchange and validate messages with a socket server
* Designed and developed a logging API supporting the idea of rules, streams and formatters (XML focused)
* Designed and developed a database schema and related CRUD API
* Designed and developed an API for emulating a terminal reader as a state machine
* Designed and developed a web app for parsing and viewing xml logs

Java Developer

Jun09 – Aug09 (3 months)

24 Media (Athens, Greece)
www.24media.gr

* Developed a football manager web application.
* Leading a Junior to develop a live reporting web application for journalists.
* Initiative to setup automated tests and dependency management.

Java Developer

Oct03 - May07 (3 years 8m)

Forthnet S.A. (Crete, Greece)
http://www.forthnet.gr

* Core developer for Enosis - http://www.enosis.gr
* Core developer for OpenSeas - http://www.openseas.gr
* Developed a web service for OpenSeas
* Developed a web service to return weather data
* Developed a CMS which drives a departures/arrivals screen for the Heraklion Port Authority

Java Developer

Nov01 – Sep02 (11 months)

CERN (Geneva, Switzerland)
http://www.cern.ch

* Core developer of an online search engine for EDH
* Developed a J2SE application to migrate an Oracle database

Speaker

https://www.youtube.com/user/qnoid/videos

* Athens iOS Meetups, "iOS Release Pipeline", 12 June 2018, Athens, Greece.
* iOS Conf, "Memory and CPU Profiling", 8 March 2017, Athens, Greece.
* The Highland Fling, "1 product, 3 years, one shipment (a true story) ", 15 November 2014, Edinburgh, UK.
* NSConference 6, "Sound Debugging", 18 March 2014, Leicester, UK.
* NSConference 5, "User Identity", 13 March 2013, Leicester, UK.
* JCrete '07, "Object Oriented Programming", April 2007, University of Crete

Projects

Inventor
Mar15 - today

Windmill

https://windmill.io

Windmill is a quality assurance platform on a mission to make continuous delivery of iPhone apps both ubiquitous and accessible to iOS developers and businesses.

Product Owner

Oct10 - Mar13

verylargebox

* Developed an MVP, pushed out, evaluated feedback, iterated.

* Recruited testers to run user tests via Testflight.

* Recruited a designer and coordinated with, to work on the visual style of the app and website.

* Recruited a film company and coordinated with, to create a promotional video for the launch.

* Developed an iPhone app that spawn 3 open source libraries (VLBCameraView, VLBScrollView, VLBAlertViews) and introduced a way to authenticate a user without the need of a password (VLBUserIdentity).

* Learned Ruby on Rails to build a REST API deployed on Heroku.

* Implemented an architecture to store photos on AWS directly from the app, ping the server on Heroku to resize and store.

* Optimised AWS and Heroku regions for low latency and fast transfers.

* Monitored and optimised web and database transactions using New Relic.

* Setup a mail service using Mandrill for user registrations.