

Simon McCalla BSc. (Hons), MIET

Profile

- Successful, proven leadership and delivery of business-critical IT solutions for UK and global companies
- IT Director with extensive experience working at Senior Management and Board Level
- Broad technical knowledge gained from 18 years of designing, developing, delivering and supporting IT solutions
- Cultural understanding and sensitivity through managing and working in diverse teams around the world including USA, Japan, India, China and Europe
- Strong and detailed budget management skills across capital and expense projects
- Substantial experience managing domestic supplier, offshore and co-sourced relationships
- Experienced leader and people-manager with a proven ability to develop both people and teams
- Designed and implemented departmental restructures to enhance performance
- Enthusiasm, persistence and flexibility in working to business and IT strategic plans
- Expertise in understanding what makes IT projects and teams successful

Career

Sept 2009 to present: Nominet UK – Director of Information Technology

Responsible for leadership of the IT department and infrastructure for the UK Domain Name Registry. Managing a team of 40 to support and enhance the Domain Name System of the United Kingdom and manage the technical infrastructure for a portfolio of 8.5 million .uk domain names. Provide creative technical direction, through a focussed research team with an eye to public purpose and benefit. Implemented significant hardware and software projects alongside the creation of a technology and business roadmap. Created and implemented a new department structure and managed significant people and technology changes.

- Quickly and effectively established rapport across business teams and out to external stakeholders
- Managed significant people change through restructure and reshaping of teams.
- Implemented a process driven approach to support, change management and maintenance
- Created a new vision for research, that focussed on both public benefit and business diversification
- Focussed the IT team to understand what it takes to run critical national infrastructure

April 2007 to Aug 2009: The White Company – Head of Information Technology

Responsible for the leadership of the IT department and infrastructure of one of the UK's fastest growing retail businesses with a turnover of £80 million. Managing a hardware and software portfolio covering a business stretching across head-office and warehouse locations, with 25 retail stores across the UK and N. Ireland, a £25 million website and a 600+ user base. Implemented significant hardware and software projects, managing communications and awareness of the IT function within the business. Implemented a business-wide, multi-channel ERP solution using the Microsoft Dynamics platform as the foundation step of a five-year IT and business plan. Key achievements:

- Created a five year IT roadmap and established board-level support and funding
- Turned around a struggling IT department to meet the demands of a growing business
- Directed, managed and delivered a 2 year strategic ERP implementation program
- Implemented a back-to-basics approach to front-line support, projects and IT governance, putting IT at the heart of the strategic business plan
- Created a technical roadmap, consolidating and enhancing key technologies to increase reliability and provide opportunities for future growth
- Simplified supplier relationships and created a hardware and software sourcing model based on key partners
- Reduced staffing budget and headcount without compromising service levels
- Consolidated the infrastructure platform, restructuring the server hardware, local and wide-area networks
- Managed a team of 25 support and project staff within a budget of £4 million.
- Worked with external agencies for complete graphical and functional redesign of the White Company website
- Represented the White Company at conferences, awards and in the media

2001 to March 2007: Warner Bros. – Director, Retail Management Systems

Responsible for the implementation, management and support of the global Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI), Category Management and EDI systems for the multi-national film studio. Worked with 72 international retail partners and 12 distributors supporting a worldwide revenue stream of \$1.8 billion through close IT integration and process-management. Global responsibilities for system development rollout and support strategy. Worked extensively across Europe and the International territories to assist the growth in VMI and Category Management businesses by establishing flexible IT solutions whilst reducing deployment costs. Key achievements:

- Successful implementation of three major system deployments across 15 global territories
- Designed and implemented a global rollout and support strategy for both new retail-business and system upgrades, reducing costs by over 50% through improved process and use of technology
- Handled a yearly \$6 million budget internationally for both support and project work
- Managed a team of 18 in London, 8 in Mumbai plus two further teams in Los Angeles and Hong Kong.
- Facilitated and managed offshore and co-sourced initiatives to achieve projects within tight deadlines and budget constraints
- Represented the International IT organisation on a global VMI management committee, creating a global change-management approach to support the Sarbanes-Oxley initiative

1999 to 2001: Positive IT Solutions – Director

Established an IT consultancy targeting development work primarily on financial systems for large corporate clients. Successfully bid, won and delivered contracts against larger consultancies, working as both service-providers and providing on-site consultants. Awarded Microsoft Certified Partner status in 2000, we employed both permanent and contract staff from our offices in Daventry. Key achievements:

- Designed and delivered a consumer credit module for Volvo Financial Services
- Implemented a travellers-cheque purchasing system for Cap-Gemini/Thomas Cook
- Created a web portal for BNP-Paribas on-line corporate banking site.

1998 to 1999: Cap Gemini– Contract Test Manager

Managed an application test-team working on the Thomas Cook account. Created test-plans and strategy for all client-server systems across the Thomas Cook group ensuring Year 2000 compliance. Key achievements:

- First team across the entire corporation to deliver completed Year 2000 testing
- Project work completed under-budget, using both internal and external resources

1997 to 1998: NEXT Group Plc – Contract Technical Lead

Worked as a technical-lead on a number of key projects for the retail-chain. Delivered bespoke systems in the Microsoft technologies, managing a small team of developers. As a Microsoft Certified Professional, consulted on Year 2000 test strategy and implemented and ran a test team. Key achievements:

- Designed and Implemented a product lifecycle-management tool for all Next products
- Created a customer facing bespoke-tailoring system for the Next stores
- Created and implemented a Year 2000 test-strategy for all client-server systems in the NEXT group.

1995 to 1997: Andersen Consulting – Contract Senior Analyst Developer

Worked as a senior developer for the design and implementation of an EPOS and back-office toolset for the 350-store Adam's Childrenswear chain. Key achievements:

- Developed a back-office reporting software-suite and implemented across 350 retail locations
- Managed a testing, rollout and support team for EPOS software.

1994 to 1995: Pharmaco Life-Sciences – Analyst Developer

Team member on a development project to develop the first fully automated drug-analysis system for the company.

1992 to 1993: Wallworkers Consultancy – Developer

Worked as part of a development team on a document-imaging system.

Education, Qualifications and Training

2008-2010: Executive Coaching
2001-2005: Warner Bros. Senior Management Development Programme
2000: Achieved Microsoft Certified Partner status as a consultancy
1997-1999: Achieved Microsoft Certified Professional status in four development disciplines
1992: Exeter University: BSc (Hons.) Physics

Personal

Date of Birth: 23 January 1971
Status: Married with two children.
Interests: Mountain biking, rock climbing, composing and playing music