
BILAL AKIL

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[GitHub](#)

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Easy to search for, i.e.:
“Bilal Akil GitHub”

Profile

I've now a few years of software engineering under my belt, and whilst I will always love a programming challenge, I'm now focusing my professional development on solutions architecture.

To complement this I try to keep up with progress in data science, cloud computing, and general development and operations, with the goal of maintaining a good view of the software engineering landscape and a solid understanding of the options available as they continue to change.

I keep an open and aware mind, as although newest technology isn't always the answer, it could very well provide elegance and pragmatism to a solution.

Experience

Bill's Spills; Freelance — 2015-ongoing

Pragmatic, high-quality and lasting solutions to a variety of problems. Cross-platform and full-stack website/app engineering. Moving into consulting.

Cloud Computing Tutor & TA, University of Sydney — 2016-ongoing

Teaching classes of Master's students data science and cloud computing and assisting in management of a unit of study.

Software Engineer, amaysim; Sydney — 2015-2016

Incredible colleagues and working culture. Real-world challenges of a growing company and their journey to technical maturity.

Lead Developer, Thinkun; Sydney — 2012-2015

Architecture, team leading and development with app and web technologies.

Volunteer Student Mentoring, University of Sydney — 2011-2012

Education

University of Sydney,

Master of Philosophy (Computer Science/Bioinformatics) — 2015-ongoing

Comparing modern dataflow engines' usability. Ask me about my research.

University of Sydney,

Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced) — 2011-2013

Completed as many CS courses as I could, loved it - that's what I was there for.

Skills

I'd like to open in saying my strongest points are my **flexibility** and **ability to learn rapidly**. Of course there are technologies I've been exposed to more than others, however experiencing many different kinds of projects, tools and programming languages has taught me how to quickly adapt to new challenges.

That being said, my weapons of choice would be **C#**, **Node.js** and **Python**, depending on the project at hand, but I'd not hesitate to diverge if another tool would be a better suit for the job. After mingling with so many languages of different styles, strengths and weaknesses, I've found myself able to become proficient with others within days.

I consider myself an **explorer**: I enjoy fiddling with new and emerging technologies and methodologies. This has provided me an understanding of and experience with practices including TDD and CI/CD and their tooling, Docker and friends, serverless technologies, and more. I love serverless and (otherwise) Docker.

I advocate taking time to build **lasting** and **maintainable** solutions, and hold my work to a high standard in their regards. I believe clearly and thoughtfully written code is often self-documenting, and strive to achieve that in my own work. Scalability and maintainability are critical factors, where sadly many seem to neglect the latter.

My focus now lies in **solutions architecture**, where I've developed a wide area of knowledge through my interactions with the cloud at university, alongside regular experimentation and constant reading and community event attendance. I'm also thoroughly interested in **machine learning** and **artificial intelligence**, and am constantly looking for ways to exercise with and make the most of it.

Interests

My wife and relationship is very important to me, and takes me all over the world. Other than that and software engineering, however, I like to keep up with the cinema; play some table tennis; eat something spicy; learn some Mandarin; etcetera.

I regularly attend technical community events and meetups, particularly around the computer or data science and cloud computing, but also some more general ones. It's a great way to meet likeminded people.

Otherwise I continue the ongoing quest of maintaining the balance, wellbeing and health in one's life, a task that's sure to take hold of any remaining time.
