

Neil Robertson

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Mainframe Developer

Mainframe software designer/developer and project manager with 30 years of experience designing and implementing ERP software for Fortune 500 sized corporations, preceded by 10 years designing and building systems software solutions. Skills include Cobol and Assembler programming, CICS, DB2, z/OS, JCL, HTML, and JavaScript.

Professional Experience

Independent Consultant, El Cerrito, CA (2/2005 – Present)

I have been providing contract services primarily, but not exclusively, on the Walker ERP system. Highlights include:

- **Programmer/Analyst for Liberty Mutual, Portsmouth, NH**
 - Technically I worked for Randstad, who contracted me to Liberty
 - Worked on many projects for their Billing system using Cobol, Assembler, HTML, JavaScript, and Walker tools, including:
 - Interfacing CICS/Cobol to Web Services, including building and debugging WSDL
 - Protecting Non-Public Private Information (NPPI)
 - EFT Authorization
 - Credit Card processing
 - Account Level Billing
 - Online Access 24x7 (while batch is running)
 - Interfacing to an Interactive Voice Response system
 - Fixing bugs in the Walker CICS interface in Assembler
- **Project Manager for IBM Services, on-site at Fireman's Fund in Novato, CA:**
 - Driving the pilot project for a complex software conversion to successful completion, requiring analysis of assembler code and the JCL for around 2,000 batch jobs.
- **Memphis City Schools, Memphis TN:** I have been hired for 7 separate projects by MCS, indicating their satisfaction with my services. Projects included:
 - **Project Manager** for implementation of a web based front-end to their Procurement system
 - Migrating ERP Software & forward fitting customizations to the latest release
 - Building custom extensions to their ERP system in Cobol
- **Various:** Cobol and Assembler coding in CICS, DB2, z/OS environments

Senior Technical Consultant, Walker Interactive, San Francisco, CA (4/1999 – 2/2005)

Providing consulting services to Fortune 500 sized companies throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and Asia, billing out at around \$160 per hour. My main strength, outside of a deep understanding of the Walker software and the environment it was run on, was an ability to perform a wide variety of roles. For example, I:

- Helped customers tailor the Walker software to their specific needs
- Designed and built additions to the Walker software in Cobol and Assembler
- Designed and taught various classes (including setting up web-based services)

- Provided pre-sales support (building demo systems to a prospect's requirements and acting as a technical resource on sales calls)
- Installed mainframe software, including DBA and Systems Programming tasks in CICS, DB2, VSAM, z/OS environments
- Installed, tuned, and benchmarked the Walker system at IBM in Poughkeepsie, achieving 183 transactions per second on a G4 processor
- Provided onsite support for Essbase based (multi-dimensional database) financial applications

Customers included: New Centuries Energy (NCE); Canadian Forest Products; Liberty Mutual; Memphis City Schools; Shopko; Johns Manville; Orange & Rockland; UCLA; SAKS; RHB Bank; Food Lion; APL; Milliken

Software Development Manager, Walker Interactive, San Francisco, CA (7/1989 – 4/1999)

My group was a development SWAT team, responsive to Sales and Marketing. I:

- Started the group and pioneered methodologies that enabled a 6 month software development life cycle, compared to the 18 month life cycle of the full Walker product line
- Brought seven products and features to market
- Pioneered the use and distribution of 3rd Party Software as a VAR
- Was a hands-on manager whose roles included Project Manager, Business Analyst, Technical Coder, Technical Writer, QA, and Instructor.
- Wrote the most technically complex routines (Cobol and Assembler)

Our products were primarily mainframe but they also included middleware based on EDA/SQL and financial reporting tools based on Essbase. My people were primarily employees but I also managed contractors and off-shore resources.

Early adopters included Western Resources, Canadian Forest Products, Central Illinois Public Service, The Smithsonian, Memphis City Schools, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the US Postal Service.

Senior Technical Consultant, Walker Interactive, San Francisco, CA (11/1987 – 7/1989)

Customers were a variety of Fortune 500 sized companies throughout the US and Canada. Projects included: Software Installation; Teaching; Designing and coding product enhancements; Migrating customers to new releases.

Customer Support Analyst, Walker Interactive, San Francisco, CA (11/1985 – 11/1987)

I was responsible for the most technical aspects of the software, the database and TP monitor interfaces written in Assembler.

Product Manager, Walker Interactive, San Francisco, CA (5/1984 – 11/1985)

I was the Technical SME for a new division tasked with selling Walker's software development tools and methodologies as a stand-alone development platform.

Systems Software Developer, G.T. Software, Atlanta, GA (5/1983 – 5/1984)

I designed and built a query system based on GT Software's 3270 screen painter

Systems Programming Consultant, Rendeck Software, Atlanta, GA (1982 – 1983)

Contract systems programming of DOS/VSE and VM/CMS systems.

Systems Software Developer, Altergo Software, London, UK and Boston, MA (1976 – 1982)

Technical support and development of Shadow II (a TP monitor). I wrote assembler code and specialized in programming and debugging local and remote 3270 protocols (most interesting was persuading hardware manufacturers that their 3270 compatible equipment wasn't).

Systems Programmer, Unichem Ltd, London, UK (1973 – 1976)

I started as an operator, then a programmer/analyst, and ended as a Systems Programmer.

Computer Operator, British Insurance Ass., London, UK (1972 – 1973)

In my brief tenure at the B.I.A. I learned all about operating their 360/30 and absorbed most of the 360 Principles of Operation, to the extent that I could write programs directly in machine code.

Education

I went to St. Andrews University in Scotland to study Pure Physics and Applied Math (1969 – 1970), which is where I was introduced to computers. This was before Universities offered Computer Science degrees, so I started in the computer business as a trainee computer operator instead.

Extra Curricular Activities

I help to teach Scuba diving and I find it nicely balances teaching software.

I'm a guest lecturer on Marine Ecology at City College of San Francisco, which helps me practice public speaking.

I maintain my websites with nothing more complicated than Notepad, writing my own HTML, CSS, and JavaScript as a way to learn those languages. If you would like further details of my career to date, please visit <http://neiland.net>. My personal website is at <http://neiland.com>.