

Consultant CTO

Experienced CTO, Independent Advisor, Agile Leader, Full Stack & Mobile Software Engineer.



Career Highlights Include:

- Big 4 Consulting Experience at Ernst & Young.
- Serving as CTO of Glamazon, a leading Australian Beauty Services marketplace.
- Serving as CTO of HelloCars, Australia's first fully online used car dealership.
- Leading the "Freelancer" team at Freelancer.com to redesign user profile pages and related infrastructure, powering 16 million pages at the time (now 33 million largely untouched).
- Working in Bioinformatics and web mapping at the CSIRO.
- Teaching Final Year Software Project Management at ANU.
- Developing a white-label Android Native App that serves over 200 brands for WorldManager, a corporate learning platform.
- Developing a securities trading platform at FormBay.com.au
- Advising a variety of Australian Companies on Technology Strategy, Staffing, Project Management and Business.
- Many years served in technical front end, back end and leadership roles at a variety of companies including startups, scaleups, larger corporations and government.
- Bsc (Hons), Dip. Innov. Man, Small Business Mgmt. Cert. IV.

Services

Technology Strategy

Strategic and Advisory Services

Advice from an experienced CTO may help generate discussion relating to technology risk, feasibility, opportunities, and assist in decision making.

Independent Architecture Review

Preparation of an architectural review based on video meetings with your staff, analysis of your current systems, technology, and external research. Following best practices and exploring technology alternatives where appropriate may help to set you up for success and provide an externally validated document to present during board meetings and investor presentations.

Independent Technical Competitor Analysis

After a technology review has been completed, you may wish us to further explore the technology landscape in which you exist. This document may assist in due diligence by potential investors, and help you to know where you are positioned against others.

Independent Scalability Review

This document, prepared based on discussions with internal staff, load testing and architectural review may help you to get an idea of where your technical strengths & weaknesses are and an idea of how your technology may perform under increased load.

Package

Strategy services are billed at standard hourly rates, plus a fee per document.

Hiring

Job description (x1)

An accurate job description is the first step in understanding requirements and finding your ideal hire.

Technical test preparation (x1)

An online technical test relating to the role allows you to screen candidates based on ability.

Resume screen (x30)

An initial check of the candidate's resume may determine their fit.

Phone screen (x15)

A longer conversation on suitability and salary expectations.

Technical test marking (x5)

A qualified CTO may determine technical skill of a candidate and provide a short report highlighting strengths and weaknesses.

Video interview (x5)

A Video interview with client and candidate is the final step required to determine hire / no hire and salary offer.

Package

The hiring package includes all of the above for a fixed fee. Additional screens, marking and interviews are charged at standard hourly rates. If I source the candidate for you, a hiring fee based on % of candidate salary is payable on success. Success fee is waived for candidates sourced by the client, or credited toward an alternative if the staff member leaves within 3 months.

Leadership

1:1 Video Mentoring

Weekly one on ones with your staff help to check in on how they're doing and find opportunities for them to grow as engineers. Preparation and follow up time is included.

Code Review

An experienced CTO may review submitted code and provide suggestions on where to improve, as well as consider concerns such as maintainability, testability, and scalability.

Project Specification Review

Review and suggestions on project specs provided by staff may help to more accurately consider business impact, estimates, feasibility and project scope.

Post Mortem Review

After a service outage or incident it is important to consider what may be learned and how to prevent similar problems occurring in future. Review and discussion of major events is part of this blameless learning experience.

Package

Leadership services are available on a fixed weekly retainer per staff member involved. Up to four hours per week for Mentoring and Code review is advised to start with additional time available at standard rates for assistance reviewing projects & specs, Crisis assistance, additional code review above retainer, Post Mortems, etc. I aim to review within 24 hours during weekdays and do my best to make myself available in emergencies where possible.

Project Management

SCRUM implementation

SCRUM is an agile project management methodology that consists of a series of weekly and daily meetings, alongside a points based estimation system to provide greater clarity on timelines for production of working software.

Daily SCRUM

This is a conversation held with developers to check in on blockers and tasks they plan to complete that day. Whilst I may not be available for all of these meetings I may be able to attend some and coach participants on how better to conduct them.

Sprint Backlog Grooming

This meeting involves prioritisation of tasks based on business priority and impact.

Sprint Planning

In sprint planning, team members determine how much is achievable in a given sprint and commit to achieving goals.

Sprint Review

This meeting is held to demonstrate completed tasks and goals.

Sprint Retrospective

This helps your team determine issues and incrementally improve.

Package

Meeting preparation, attendance, follow up and client consultation is billed at standard hourly rates. If attendance is desired at backlog grooming, review, retrospective and planning we request that these meetings are held back to back including a short break.

Development

Project Specification and Implementation Plan

I can prepare a detailed project spec covering relevant concerns for a given project, broken down into an implementation plan with phases and size of task estimates. The spec may be used at your discretion for internal or external development.

Estimation

Development tasks are sized using the T-shirt sizing method. Breaking down tasks into Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large categories provides an easy to understand methodology for both parties and a level of assurance on project fees. As these tasks are billed on a fixed rate additional time spent in agreed scope of a task in question above my internal estimate will not be charged. Additional requests out of scope or for changes may be covered in a newly estimated task.

R&D Tax Concession Project Preparation Assistance

The R&D Tax Concession is an entitlement that businesses can claim when they are conducting Systematic, Investigational and Experimental R&D Activities. Your registered Tax Accountant may not have domain knowledge or technical experience in your area and I may be able to assist them in preparing more technically accurate claims than would otherwise be possible.

Package

Project specs are billed at standard hourly rates. Development services are billed based on size of task at a fixed rate, using T-shirt sizing and an exponential scale.