



Job Specification:

Position: Technical Architect

Responsible To: Head of Software Development

Background:

Seopa Ltd is a leading provider of financial price comparison engines. As well as providing this software and systems for other companies, we also operate our own insurance comparison brands - Quotezone.co.uk and CompareNI.com, which generate over 3,000,000 quotes per year.

Our systems enable insurance companies to place business with customers from their target markets and enable consumers to easily find providers who can meet their financial product requirements at market leading prices. Additionally, our affinity partnership arrangements enable other companies to use our quote engines to increase the range of services offered (and revenue generated) by their websites.

With over 400 financial partners in the insurance industry including those that provide quotes both online and offline, and numerous affinity partners who use our powerful technologies, we are a trusted, respected, successful and profitable company. Our success has been recognised by a series of awards including seven consecutive Deloitte Technology Fast 50 awards, a Deloitte EMEA Technology Fast500 award in 2013 and the prestigious Deloitte Best Managed Companies award in 2017.

Based in Belfast, with branch offices in Romania, we have over 50 staff engaged in Software Development, Account Management, Sales, Marketing and Business Development. Once again, we are expanding our workforce to enable us to further increase our mutually beneficial relationships with other businesses. As part of this expansion we are seeking to appoint an energetic and enthusiastic technologist capable of defining and leading the implementation of Seopa's future software architecture.

Role Description:

This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in leading the technical direction of a multi-award winning company through a key stage in its continuous expansion. The role involves assessing Seopa's current architecture and building upon that architecture to support significant business growth, improved system performance and a quality development environment. This is a hands-on role requiring the successful candidate to be actively involved in all current and future development projects.

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Key Requirements:

- At least 8 years experience of full software development lifecycle, from design through to construction and testing
- Ensuring complete alignment of technical solutions with business objectives in short, medium and longer term
- Ensuring all software developed adheres to appropriate standards and industry best practice for security, performance, database and code optimization for delivery across a range of desktop, tablet and mobile devices
- Ensuring that all architectural and design decisions are considered industry best practice and are future-proofed for an evolving commercial environment
- Proven experience of
 - Planning and designing IT systems
 - Preparing high level design documentation
 - Producing functional requirement specifications
 - Defining architecture options to include robust cloud based solutions
 - Managing multi-discipline engineering teams
 - Documentation
- Proven track record of interpersonal skills gained through team building, interaction with multiple stakeholder groups in differing geographies and close working relationships with varied customers
- Acknowledged expert in the field of Web development with expertise in many of the following technologies: Full LAMP Stack, PHP, Laravel, Symfony, MYSQL Cluster, Web Services, SOAP, Centos and Cloud services including AWS
- Knowledge and Experience of some of the following would also be a distinct advantage: Angular, Handlebars, Twig, Underscore JS, JQuery, JavaScript, Bootstrap and SASS
- While not essential, knowledge of the following would be desirable: Java, Spring, Springboot
- Excellent problem solving and analytical skills
- Clear, accurate and concise written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail and clarity of messaging
- Highly organised with the ability to prioritise own workload and the workload of others whilst adhering to deadlines
- Willing to travel to other company locations and represent the company in technical discussions with key clients as required

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Create architectural solutions for new developments across multi-site development teams
- Provide technical leadership to Seopa's development teams



- Collaborate with others to define the tools and processes which Seopa should adopt
- Drive forward an agenda of Continuous Improvement
- Ensure that all software developed meets business requirements and follows Seopa standards and processes
- Provide content for functional and technical documentation
- Review and constructively comment on the software, testing and documentation of peers
- Apply technical expertise to investigate and resolve customer software issues
- Work closely with the business and QA teams locally and globally
- Effectively plan and schedule own work for tasks and projects and consistently deliver on , or ahead of, time
- Communicate the progress of tasks to create an audit trail to ensure a clear understanding for relevant parties
- Inform and liaise closely with senior management in respect of IT related decision making
- Proactively engage in the Mentoring and coaching others