

JONATHAN RIDDELL CV FOR 2025

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OBJECTIVE

Senior software engineer and tech lead. Based in Edinburgh, looking for office or remote work here. Open to travel.

After 2 decades working at the forefront bringing Linux desktop operating systems to widespread commercial, educational and community success, I am seeking to join a more corporate world for fresh challenges. The Linux distros I make not only get sold to customers but are used by the Germany government, Google's engineers' workplaces, Lord of the Rings creator Weta, the Catalan education system and countless others I am not even aware of.

While my Linux desktop work has been exceptionally satisfying it is ultimately a limited market and I would like to move to a more structured environment with a more direct relationship to the end result.

At NCR, Canonical and Blue Systems I have proved myself adaptable to bringing software projects to completion using new methods and technologies to increase workflow efficiency and quality.

EXPERIENCE

COO at Blue Systems GMBH and Release Manager at KDE 2012 - 2025

- Redefining the Linux distribution model by working with the community which makes the software
- Using Jenkins and OpenQA for automated workflow
- I'm the release manager for the KDE Plasma desktop and in 2023 I lead the KDE 6 MegaRelease coordinating over 200 projects with a single unified release

Software Engineer at Canonical 2004 - 2012

- One of the first employees creating Ubuntu, now a leading Linux distribution
- I lead the Kubuntu flavour which remains the most active community within Ubuntu
- Coding all the tooling needed including the installer, upgrade tool and package manager
- Pioneering cloud building of .deb packages
- Release manager for the Ubuntu project managing several teams to work to schedule
- 6 month rotation in 2008 working on Bazaar, a distributed revision control system written in Python

Software Engineer at NCR 2003

- Building a secure Linux distribution for cash machines

EDUCATION

University of Stirling 1999-2003

- 1st BSc in Computer Science
- Winner of British Computer Society best dissertation project for Umbrello UML Modeller

SKILLS

- Native English speaker with conversational Spanish and French (I have lived in Barcelona and Guadeloupe).
- I usually code in Python, Ruby and C++ but with an ability to pick up necessary languages and frameworks as needed. Recently I've used Groovy, JavaScript jQuery and QtQuick QML.
- D1 minibus UK clean driving licence
- UK, EU and Chilean Citizenship
- British Canoeing Advanced White Water Kayak Leader and Coach
- OpenUK awards host at UN COP 26 in Glasgow in 2021 and House of Lords in 2022 and 2024