Zoltán Balogh

Hands-on engineering manager. Software platforms, developer tools and quality engineering. Helsinki, Finland.

If you are building something serious, get in touch.

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PROFILE

Coding professionally since 1992, leading technology and projects since 2004, managing people since 2012. SMS centres, MRI scanners, anti-virus gateways and telecom auditing, then four Linux platform families (Maemo/MeeGo, Ubuntu, automotive Linux and SUSE Linux). I lead distributed teams and keep coding, because staying in the trenches shows me what my engineers are up against. My management style is Nordic. Kind, demanding, no BS.

EXPERIENCE

2018 – now

SUSE · Senior Manager, Quality Engineering

- Lead a QE team of 10-19 engineers, product owners and scrum masters across six countries for SLES and openSUSE. Test development, maintenance update validation and openQA development.
- Grew the team with close to zero attrition. Some team members were promoted.
- Started squad rotation between teams and the "PO on the bench" series.
- Author of zypper-changelog-plugin and zypper-rdepends-plugin in openSUSE and SLE. Contributor to dozens of SLES and openSUSE packages, vim maintainer in SLE 12 and SLE 15 for several years.
- Leading the department's move to AI-assisted engineering. Improved test performance to save about 10% of openQA machine time, introduced binary function coverage measurement of SLES tests, research on local LLM and RAG systems.

2017 – 2018

Comptel (acquired by Nokia) · R&D Manager

- Led a 23-person Scrum team building cloud-native service orchestration software for telecom operators.
- Made engineering cost plannable and measurable. A paper trail behind done work gave visibility and kept improving our estimates.

2017

Link Motion · Engineering Manager

- Automotive Linux platform for infotainment and dashboards, 4 direct reports.
- Brought the container-based cross-build approach from Canonical and turned it into an offline, cross-platform build and packaging framework used as SDK, with good results on Yocto. Still developed today as sysroot-tools.

2012 – 2017

Canonical · Engineering Manager, Ubuntu SDK and UI Toolkit

- Founded and led a team of about a dozen engineers behind the Ubuntu Touch UI Toolkit, SDK IDE, application framework and platform APIs, shipped on bq and Meizu phones. Reported to Mark Shuttleworth for the first six months.
- Packaged Qt 5 for Ubuntu including ARM. Built the UI Toolkit's end-to-end test system (about 400 autopilot tests plus app validation, releases twice a month).
- Built the LXC/LXD container-based cross-compiler SDK, replacing 1.7 GB per-target chroots with images that start in seconds. At the time no Linux platform offered developers a container-based cross-compiling SDK.
- About 1,000 commits in the UI Toolkit and the QtCreator Ubuntu plugin. Fully remote team. Public talks and roadmap presentations.

2008 – 2012

Nokia Devices, Maemo/MeeGo · Senior Project Manager, Project Coach

- Owned the developer offering projects, including the Python and web runtimes, native platform SDK, application SDK, platform APIs and software update.
- Coached 7-9 project managers and scrum masters, 80+ engineers on multiple sites. Product owner of projects worth 2-5 M€.

2004 – 2008 **Nokia Networks / Nokia Siemens Networks** · Software Architect, Technology Manager

- Co-invented and developed RRHC, an automated health check and performance audit service for live telecom networks (Perl, C, PHP on HP-UX, Solaris, Linux).
- Delivered to 50+ operators on four continents, including some of the world's largest. Pricing, budgets and presentations to technical executives.
- Winner of the eXtreme Customer Delight Championship at Nokia Networks, 2007.

2004 **F-Secure** · Senior Software Engineer

Ported an internet anti-virus gateway from BSD to Linux (C/C++).

2002 – 2004 **Philips Medical Systems, MR Technologies** · Software Design Engineer

Patient administration in the MRI scanner console software (C++/MFC) under medical device regulation.

1998 – 2002 **Nokia Networks** · Software Developer (consultant)

Alarm and event logging daemons and the control centre UI (C/C++, X/Motif, HP-UX) of Nokia's SMS and USSD centres.

SKILLS

- People, engineering and technology management
- Project management and project coaching
- Distributed teams since 2006, fully remote since 2012
- Agile and Scrum at 7 to 23+ person scale
- Roadmaps, budgets, service pricing, cost tracking
- Quality engineering, CI, test automation, openQA
- C, C++, Python, Perl, Go, shell, Qt/QML
- GNU/Linux and Unix; RPM/OBS and Debian packaging
- Containers, cross builds, SDKs and developer tools
- AI-assisted engineering, local LLM/RAG tooling

LANGUAGES

Hungarian (native), English (fluent), Finnish (fluent)

STUDIES

University of Szeged, Mathematics and Computer Science, 1995 - 1998

OFF WORK

Marathon runner, former skydiver and tandem jumpmaster with 1,800+ jumps.

Full story with details per job at zbalogh.nokedli.org