

# Conrad Braam

Location : Wilburton – Cambridge

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I self learned enough 8086 instruction set before leaving school, to write a simple screensaver for DOS. I do not have a university degree, but love working with people who do. Once you get me out of my shell I am the, can-do and always positive, team member.

Test Automation is expensive in many ways, my desire is to build low maintenance automated-testing systems and fix the requirements and risk analysis that gave you flakey tests to start with. I want to share what automation tricks I have learned, and grow people's confidence in automation, as a career goal.

When looking for a job, I'm most interested in the new and the hard problems. Preferably ones that involve some hardware.

## Test Automation Expert

In 1992 I started out developing comms drivers, for a small company developing an industrial control system. I moved to the UK in 2006, joined Symbian mobile, and got hooked on test automation. In 2008 I joined Clearcom who sell a digital audio and Voip solution hosted on micro-linux, and built a CI/CD test system while there. In 2010 I joined Citrix to do the testing on a new device-driver, and ended up building a large CI/CD test system once again.

I have over 25 years experience developing software, 11 of those as a full time automation tester.

- I have designed, built and then managed tests in demanding Continuous Integration environments where previously no automated testing was happening.
- I can deploy tests to Windows and to various Embedded hardware platforms and enjoy the challenge to orchestrate and remotely control devices.
- Jenkins, Teamcity, Cruise Control. Incorporating CPPUnit, NUnit and custom test tool-chains.
- Code in many compiled languages, to create my own test tools, but prefer open-sourcing.
- I have automated tests for C# .NET WPF forms (GUI testing) using Ranorex.
- Scripting Powershell and Python lately, but learning Java now after being a C and C++ coder for too long.
- Learning to use Selenium, Jasmine, Protractor frameworks.
- A can-do trouble-shooter good at researching & knowledge transfer.

Part time arduino hacker and chorister.

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The past.

## DisplayLink : Jan 2018 - June 2018

6 month contract ,Snr Test engineer.

### Role/Projects

Manual testing, test analysis and test automation. Testing of prototype projects and defect verification

### Skills and Tools

Python, Powershell and DOS scripting. Subversion

## Citrix Research: XenDesktop (2010 – 2017)

Joined as contractor to cover all the testing for a new device driver, but moved into a team created to develop a turn-key test-automation framework for Continuous Integration. We created a turn-key testing system; provisioning Windows AD and distributed VLAN hosts.

### Accomplished

- Designing, creating and deploying a testing framework to internal teams worldwide.
- Created a system for managing virtualized Machines in mini test-farms.
- Created and maintained fully-automated software test-suites for next 6 years of XenDesktop product releases.
- Became a subject matter expert, providing training and helping teams design and build test environments.

### Skills and Tools

- Jenkins, Teamcity, Powershell and controlling virtualized infrastructure.
- Jira defect tracking and Agile process.
- Perforce and GIT.
- Xenserver and CloudStack.
- Agile: Scrum team and sprint planning.
- Open-Cover code Coverage tool : Have also used Bulldog in the past.

## Clear Com : Vitec Group (2008 -2009)

Clear Com design and market a complete hybrid digital intercom system. Customers include Live Performance, Broadcasters, Military, Aerospace and Government.

### Experience gained

- Both uC-Linux (Blackfin DSP) on digital audio “stations” a 8260 PowerPC processor card in ‘C’.

- Design and develop C# .NET server components to perform configuration, control and monitoring of a PowerPC processor card and networked stations.

## **Tools**

- Open Source Tools: CPPUnit, N-Unit, and Cruise Control.NET.
- Installed a MediaWiki knowledge base, and a Bugzilla bug-tracker.
- Toolchain: Use of a cross-compiler, bash scripting, Makefiles, CMAKE as well as GDB.

## **Symbian Limited : Nokia (2006 – 2008)**

Symbian developed the high-end smart-phone RTOS that evolved from the Psion portable organizers and powered many Nokia devices.

### **Roles**

- Defect fixer on USB and Bluetooth team.
- Test designer + implementer to the USB project.
- Created plugins for ROBOT framework.
- USB stack on-the-go (OTG) embedded host test lead.
- Maintaining integration test-farm, overnight project builds, and “real-target” tests and a reporting dashboard.

### **Skills**

- Tools: ARM tool-chain and GCC, Perforce.
- C++, Perl scripting; CodeWarrior and Eclipse IDE.

## **Adroit Technologies (1992 – 2006)**

Adroit Technologies develop an industrial control system on the Windows platform, in Johannesburg, South Africa. I started as a junior developer on a ‘C’ coding role and progressed to team lead.

### **Roles**

- Research and incorporate new techniques and technologies.
- Perform technology presentations to customers.
- Reverse engineer protocols.
- Gather customer requirements. Produced designs and wrote user documentation.

### **Skills**

- Tools: Visual Studio, SourceSafe, Ethereal/ Wire-shark.
- C++, Multithreading, MFC, STL.

## Early Studies

- 1991-1992 : My first full-time work involved installing LAN and WAN for a contractor. I ran a 2-3 man team, specialized in troubleshooting networks and tackling difficult cable installations.
- 1991: I trained in formal software development, with a full-time COBOL course at the well known Van Zyl and Pritchard institution, in Johannesburg.
- 1989-1990: Military service: Kept myself busy with basic radio maintenance working in the signal corps. Got hooked on programming her, after using a base admin computer at night to write a ration-ordering prediction program in Borland Pascal.
- 1988-1989: Electrical Engineering Light Current at the Cape Town Technicon (equivalent to a polytechnic).
- 1987: High school final year, taught myself 8086(Intel) MASM, and Borland 'C'. I then helped write parts of a data-capture application on DOS.

## Hobbies

An electronics hobbyist and Arduino hacker ; I also enjoy singing, in a large local choir.