

# Alberto Falchi

Head of Technology

Software Engineering Team Lead / Manager

Chief Technology Officer



Languages: Italian, English, Spanish ... and Klingon

Mobile: +39 370 13 93 799

Web: [www.ohiaia.com](http://www.ohiaia.com)

Email: [alberto.ohiaia.falchi@gmail.com](mailto:alberto.ohiaia.falchi@gmail.com)

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ohiaia>

First, I would like to **thank you for the time** you will spend reading this resume and ask for your patience given the “unusual” format of my CV (I believe in user stories more than dry requirements). If more technical information regarding my roles, projects and responsibility is required, this can be accessed through my LinkedIn profile or directly by asking me for further details! I always appreciate a good chat about what I love.

Classic Italian, I know...

## In Brief

Since I was young, I was acknowledged as the odd kid who preferred coding over playing games (even though I have spent quite some time between Prince of Persia, Lemmings and Monkey Island in my youth). The same kid that learnt how to reinstall both OS and working software on the home pc (an old 286) from the manual. And I learnt it against the most critical and pressing deadline ever: the moment at which my father would have caught me! And, well, actually he did catch me. Because “suddenly” the mouse started working when it didn't before (in hindsight, just a driver installation issue) ... That was my first out-of-scope feature, as well as my first newbie error! After that, he started getting me more books and manuals. As much as I wanted and needed. Since then, I've never stopped learning.

I don't have a favorite programming language, since I strongly believe one should use the best tool available for each task. My role is to solve problems (not “Pulp Fiction's Mr Wolf”-style, since I don't like suits that much...), and languages have always been just my working tools.

I love learning and adopting the best available technologies/approaches in my solutions, but only if they are a suit for my purposes (and mature enough). When I can, I'm passionate about cross-contaminating what I build with my other passions and skills (e.g. psychology, music, photography, geeky things ...).

Finally, my creativity and lateral thinking, together with my enthusiastic and proactive attitude, help me to always look for multiple and complementary solutions.

## Experiences

### 2000 · KickOff

Even though I started “doing things” really early, my career officially kicked-off in the professional software-building world in the early 2000s. My first tasks were in the “dynamic” web page realm, but this soon changed when market (and technology) gave me the opportunity!

I started **working for Sassari's University in 2005**. Here, I developed and strengthened my **Java**, **PHP**, database (**Oracle** and **MySQL**), front-end (**HTML**, **CSS**, **Javascript**), deployment and delivery skills (basically **UNIX** and **FTP**). This was my very first (and exhilarating) hands-on full-stack experience, with new and different challenges every day.

### 2008 · Spain

I moved to **Spain in 2008** (due to some personal and curious events that I'd love to tell, but would take too much space here...) and started **working as a freelancer**. In this context, I've been working with both autonomously and excellent collaborators (who eventually became very good friends). I had the opportunity to focus much more on improving my skills, learning how to find solutions to client's problems (sometimes even solving issues they did not know they had), and adopting available and useful alternative technologies/approaches. I also learnt and experienced the (critical) benefits of software version control and “wheel-reinventing” avoidance (this being a too widespread “sin” in the software dev world...). Among the many highlights of this period, I developed my personal framework for a client project (with very specific, and custom, requirements...) that allowed me to move **from PHP** (which I was already mastering at the time) **to python**, and **Django**.

But working as a “lone rider/freelancer” is boring. It's limiting. I'm a social animal. I'm a bass player. The beauty of creating synergy with a team, celebrating successes and overcoming failures together is obviously lost when working alone. When I realized

this, I happily accepted a position at the **Fuerteventura Airport in April 2014**. After a short, intense, powerful and charging adjustment period (where I've been mentored by a strongly skilled and "mind-blowing" professional who, eventually, became a very good friend of mine), I found myself both **mentor** and **leader** of a software development team, while, at the same time, still retaining hands-on coding responsibilities. Together we developed important internal software solutions, involving a journey into the IoT universe.

In my role I introduced **Best Practices** (e.g. **TDD...**) and standards, which I acknowledge as one of my best accomplishments. At the time this was already something I used in my work as freelancers, and it was quite naturally adopted given that the team realized in a short time its value.

My main guiding principle as a manager is that a good leader is NOT a boss (and s/he should never be forced to be one).

## 2016 · Australia

In 2016 some personal/family circumstances made me (with my family) explore opportunities outside Fuerteventura. In particular, looking for a more exciting (as well as safer, more interesting and more culturally diverse) environment, we moved to **Australia in January 2016**. There, I challenged myself by starting again from the "bottom" of the ladder, i.e. in a freelance role which ended up being way more rewarding than initially expected.

It also allowed me to be much more deeply involved in the daily life of my kids (and, I have to confess, I'm perhaps guilty of getting them involved in brainstorming & software planning activity... which, in turn, showed me that kids can be more effective than rubber duck debugging with their questions/observations!). I've also started getting involved with the vibrant Melbourne Meetup community, making new friends and even presenting at conferences/workshops. In particular, I presented challenges and solutions I developed in my career, as well as new (almost crazy) ideas, new approaches and tools.

Next, I started **working for Common Code** in Melbourne. In addition to being a very exciting experience, I also "tasted" again the joy of working in an open and diverse team. The software we were building required top-notch skills, but there was also a massive focus on developing and strengthening skills. During that time I took the opportunity to improve my **Agile** skills, learn more **python** tricks (Common Code is one of the main supporters for the Melbourne **Django** Meetup), and get "dirty" with **ansible**

(which, before then, I did already use just in conjunction with **Vagrant**, but not in production).

Following the Common Code experience, In **November 2016** I started working for **VRT systems**, first remotely and then (January 2017) from their sunny Queensland office in Brisbane. There I did contribute developing some pretty neat IoT software applications remote building control and monitoring. I learned a lot from this experience, since VRT's approach to development and delivery was very unconventional and significantly different from that I would have adopted (the best way to improve is to get exposed to new ideas/concepts). At VRT I grew my familiarity with everyday-production environments including **Docker**, and learnt a few new cool tricks. I also spent some time fighting some epic battle against **AngularJS** and, again, I learnt as much as I could.

In July 2017 I started collaborating (remotely) with the **Deakin Software and Technology Innovation Lab (DSTIL)**, a software house hosted by Deakin University in Melbourne working mostly on AI-, Machine Learning- and Deep Learning- related software. My role was a hybrid Senior Full Stack / Manager position. I can't hide the fact that I immensely enjoyed the empowering feeling of the role and the related challenges, even though stress levels were high and production deadlines very strict. I discovered myself to be able to wear different hats, from **DevOps**, to **Senior contributor**, from **Mentor**, to **Project Manager** and, eventually, **Product Owner**. And all of them while working remotely. Luckily the teams (from 3 to 8 members, depending on the project) I worked with/managed were made of brilliant people!

In this role I contribute to the shipping and delivering of "**Data Science as a Service**" solutions (e.g. tools and instruments to pack the data science libraries for a production-ready environment). Among other tasks, I'm very proud of the solution architecture and tech-stack I did propose (and that was eventually adopted), which initially involved **Apache Mesos**, but was then migrated to **K8s** on **AWS** because of change of customer specifications. We also used **Docker** to pack and build the **Java** and **Python** libraries and deployed onto **Spark Clusters**.

Meanwhile, I never stopped actively participating in the tech knowledge sharing world, e.g. attending and presenting at different events (e.g. **Async/Await** talk at the **BrisJS** meetup, **NodeGirls** in Brisbane, ...).

In **November 2017** (not before completing a Business Management diploma), I moved back to Europe, and specifically to Italy. From there I kept working remotely for DSTIL until the successful completion of the two remaining projects I was involved with,

and the start of a third project for which I helped with solution definitions and architecture, as well as documentation and QA assessments.

## 2018 · Back to Italy

While taking some Christmas Holidays in Italy I came across **Abinsula SRL Group** on my way. I started working for them in **February 2018** and until 2021 Even though my role was within the “digital” team, I ended up spending quite some time moving through the chairs of the embedded team to help them out when needed. The company is a consulting group that designs concepts and solutions for a wide range of domains, from Automotive to sportive (Football in particular), from precise farming to car sharing platforms.

## 2021 · My Last Adventure!

In August 2021 I joined **OfCourseMe**, a StartUp on its way to maturity. The company focuses on the e-learning market, as Head of Technology. In this function I have been responsible for:

a. *Coordination and Expansion of the Tech Team.* In particular coordination and planning of developers activities and tasks, assessment of team skill gaps and consequent upskilling, preparation and execution of company hiring plans in the tech space, supervision of Team Leaders during their onboarding and upskilling of new hires, and, of course, set up of Best Practices and standards (those I learnt on my career path so far from bigger and more established companies; e.g. CI/CD, ...)

b. *Consolidation and evolution of architecture / platform.* Main objectives here were the enhancement of the Content Platform (the big crawler farm-factory); managing the API functionalities, defining the roadmap for the product (web app) to improve user content fruition, and oversight of the whole solution architecture with focus on security, compliance, and performance.

c. *Deliver an ambitious product roadmap.* Together with the *Head of Product*, prioritization and planning for the different features in the product’s roadmap that were (a) requested by the “Product Team” (sourced from customers), (b) necessary technical improvements, and (c) refactoring/bug-fixing activities needed by “Tech Team”.

## Right Here, Right Now

While OfCourseMe was a great company to work for, with the amazing culture and people in it, I did start missing living abroad. OfCourseMe does not share the “stale air” that is common to perceive in the Italian IT market, but I still felt the place where I left a piece of my (also work-related) heart is on the other side of the planet, in a continent/country that loves their IT people almost as much as they love their Vegemite.

So, here I am, looking at the bright side and pushing me to actively **look for a real new challenge**. Let's see: **I LOVE coding and the entire world around it!** But while I surely enjoy reviewing and learning from others' code, as well as helping out with coding when needed, I do believe my skills make me a very valuable team leader that can nurture and grow teams with a “how-to-reach-the-stars” attitude in my day-to-day work. I do believe that the value of a manager/leader is reflected by how strong the weakest of his/her team members are, so I strongly focus on the team's growth and continuous learning mindset.

### So what am I looking for?!

In my next role, I wish to further focus on **mentoring, growing** (in skills and size), **and leading** a technology team of brilliant people. Steer the helm to bring the company to achieve its goals in a safe and reasonable way without killing developers in the process or burning unreasonable deadlines, as well as collaborating/contributing to a solid and exciting product roadmap!

I got used to **managing** strong **engineering** teams and learnt optimal resource and budget planning . In parallel, I love solving problems by cutting my way through them and, if possible, setting the basis for new **ambitious projects** that might satisfy further customers' needs (...yes I love Agile methodologies and principles...).

My career demonstrates an excellent track record for this, both in presence and full remotely (e.g. as done with DSTIL, Abinsula and OfCourseMe).