

Software Development Manager, Bristol

Role function:

Global poverty is falling fast, yet 1.2 billion people across the world still live in extreme poverty. Development Initiatives (**DI**) believes that we can end extreme poverty by 2030, but need better information to do so. Our role is to help people to access – and use – data and information about ending poverty.

DI has been instrumental in establishing and managing the International Aid Transparency Initiative (**IATI**). **IATI** is an open data standard, allowing detailed information on who is spending what, where, with what results to be shared in a common electronic format. This is an exciting time for **IATI**: with over 290 publishers it is reaching critical mass in providing detailed and timely open data on financial flows coming from a wide range of aid and development actors. These 290+ publishers are the tip of the iceberg. We need to support more organisations to publish open data, and drive up the quality of the data being published.

In addition **DI** is developing an ambitious information system that will join up data on resource flows and socio-economic indicators from a range of different global and national sources.

We are looking to recruit an experienced Software Development Manager to help us manage the **IATI** Standard, its code, and technical infrastructure as well as oversee the development of **DI**'s information system. You will be part of an expanding multi-disciplinary technical team engaging with all aspects of **DI** and **IATI** work.

Role content:

IATI

The **IATI** Standard has an agreed process of change control for which you will be responsible. This involves:

- Communicating with communities of interest about plans for change
- Carrying out consultation of proposed changes to the Standard with a wide range of stakeholders around the world
- Planning adoption cycles for new versions of the **IATI** Standard
- Maintaining audit trails and documenting changes
- Managing the process within the **IATI** Technical team
- Working with the Technical Lead to agree the specific technical details of changes

We store all of our code on GitHub: <https://github.com/IATI/>

You will manage our team of two developers to:

- Prioritise software development work

- Manage the *IATI* GitHub Organisation
- Improve deployment processes
- Future proof existing projects to changes in the IATI Standard
- Support existing software that we have created, adapted or manage
- Improve the quality of that software
- Engage in development cycles for existing and new products
- Communicate with users of our software
- Help others understand IATI data through the products you maintain and support
- Maintain public facing services so that there is minimal downtime

You will be working with a core UK-based team, but engaging with a wide network of practitioners around the world, including opportunities to travel. You will need to be prepared to take on a range of tasks, learning as you go, and working in a busy and varied environment. In any month you might find your team:

- Creating routines to generate reports on some or all of the published IATI data;
- Updating software to work with new versions of the IATI standard;
- Working with our Single Source of Truth to generate up to date documentation;
- Working with the wider team to explain the nuances and implications of changes to code.

DI

You will oversee the development of DI's new back-end database and front-end visualisation platform and data service.

- You will manage and coordinate the work of DI's in-house database and front-end developers.
- You will coordinate this work with DI's data analysts and communications and engagement teams
- You will improve the hosting environment of both DI and IATI systems by managing contracts with hosting providers to ensure they provide a well-managed service.

Person specification

Education/qualifications

At least ten years' practical experience/post qualification experience.

Knowledge/technical competencies

Essential

- Process/project management
- A working knowledge of XML and HTML
- Experience in the delivery and management of IT projects
- Experience of managing and working with databases
- Ability to write technical guidance and communications in plain English
- Managing large datasets
- Working collaboratively on software projects
- Experience of version control systems
- Basic understanding of open source
- Understanding of XML Schema

- Understanding of the pros and cons of various software development processes
- Ability to manipulate XML
- Ability to use GitHub
- Understanding of open source and free software

Desirable

- Working with data standards
- Experience of or interest in working in international development
- Working with public web APIs
- Proving a versioned public API
- Python deployment and programming
- Prior knowledge of the Open Data movement / community
- Contribution of code to open source communities.
- Understanding of software and content licensing
- Understanding of *IATI*
- Server administration
 - Preferably Debian derivative
 - Apache
- Managing a GitHub organisation
- Experience of and understanding of Unit Testing
- Communicating with software users about bugs, upgrades, changes to code, etc.
- Deployment and testing of software projects
- Generating statistics from large data sets
- Understanding of software development cycles and models

Personal skills/qualities

- Patience and flexibility in team work
- Keen to learn and develop skills
- Able to articulate and describe technical issues in a simple way
- Able to understand complex issues (eg statistics, financial flows)
- Able to form strong working relationships with colleagues and agencies
- Organised and efficient

Duties/Responsibilities

Technical duties

- Manage the server infrastructure
- Manage the software development of *DI* systems
- Manage the change control process for the *IATI* Standard, including the consultation process with the *IATI* publisher and user community
- Manage, maintain and develop all of *IATI*'s software assets
- Manage the work of the four *DI* and *IATI* Developers
- Be responsible for ensuring that all websites and deployed software are working;
- Ensure software bugs and issues are reported and fixed;
- Build and maintain collaborative relationships with the developer community;

- Write content for websites, blog posts and newsletters;
- Increase and improve communications about new data and data quality and engage with the IATI publisher community through online fora etc.;
- Work collaboratively with a variety of institutions and individuals across the IATI network
- Identify and implement, wherever possible, efficiency and other improvements in day to day working practices

Contractual details

Start date: One year fixed term contract starting ASAP.
Location: DI's Bristol office
Salary scale: £35,000 to £40,000
Hours: 35 hours a week
Probation: 3 months
Leave: 25 days plus all bank/public holidays
Benefits: Refer to web page

Application details

Your CV (no more than 3 pages) and covering letter which should detail your skills and evidence of experience and how it relates to the job description, should be emailed to: Jane McNeil (Human Resources Manager) at HR@devinit.org, quoting ref: SoftDev in the email subject line. Your letter should also include your salary expectations, notice period/available start date and where you saw the job advert.

Closing date: 5pm (GMT) on 12th February 2015

Interviews: Wednesday 18th March 2015

Other

Employing an individual who is not allowed to work in the UK is illegal and we have a duty to prevent illegal working by checking potential employees' documents, before employing them, to ensure they have the right to work in the UK. It is highly unlikely that we will be able offer sponsorship to a worker from outside the EEA.

Due to the volume of applicants that we receive, we regret to say that we will be unable to acknowledge receipt of your application and if you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Development Initiatives is an equal opportunities employer and in line with our policies, we aim to ensure that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.