

Asokan Pichai

Sr. V P - Learning and Development at TalentSprint

pasokan@gmail.com

Summary

Solid software development experience of nearly 25 years - for Indian and overseas clients.

Coding experience and expertise in COBOL, Clipper, C, C++, Python. Familiar with Java and Ruby. Very interested in functional languages and code generation.

Excellent trainer in problem solving and program design skills - primarily targetted at new software professionals. Trained more than 1000 software engineers

Excellent course design and development skills - headed the Curriculum Development Department of Brilliant's Computer Centre.

Designed more than 25 courses centred around programming.

Trained more than 300 trainers and nearly 100 instructional designers and developers.

I am a certified MBTI Administrator and use it as a platform for training and coaching. I recently went through the TA101 - the first course in Transactional Analysis - to become a better mentor/coach.

Specialties

Mentoring first/second level Managers in Software Companies

A deep interest in open source software

Training fresh software developers

Designing and Developing Training Courses

Training in Instructional Design

Experience

Sr. V P - Learning and Development at TalentSprint

June 2011 - Present (3 months)

Consultant at FOSSEE Project

May 2009 - Present (2 years 4 months)

This is part of the National Education Mission--a major project funded by Ministry of HRD.

I am working in a sub-project to adapt open source software for use in Engineering curriculum.

Specifically I am leading a group of people in designing and developing courses using free software tools (mostly python-based) for engineering curriculum. I am also design and developing teacher's training programs for the same courses. I will also be delivering these courses in a few places and conducting workshops.

I am very excited as it leverages my skills and experience in Software development, training, instruction design and passion for free software and I have an opportunity to contribute towards improving the engineering education in our country..

Principal Consultant at Merquri Consulting

January 2008 - Present (3 years 8 months)

Trainer/Coach/Mentor (Self-Employed)

January 1985 - Present (26 years 8 months)

I am very passionate about training. My journey started in my BSc when I was asked to teach Nuclear Physics for my own class - and I was hooked for life.

As a software developer I have trained - both in classroom mode and in mentoring mode - more than 1000 software developers.

Over the years I have done training in Problem Solving and Programming Logic, Programming in C, C++, Python, Unix and Shell Scripting .

When I started developing training materials I learnt about Instruction Design and soon found myself training trainers and course material writers. I have conducted training in Instructional Design in India and abroad - so far I have trained more than 200 trainers and course material developers.

Of late I have looked into the softer side and studied MBTI and TA. Now I am an accredited administrator of MBTI and I just passed the TA101 program; I intend to pursue this and other areas to be able to offer holistic training and coaching to managers.

VP & Head Software Development at TalentSprint

April 2010 - May 2011 (1 year 2 months)

TalentSprint provides freshers aspiring for careers in Software Engineering and Software Testing with well-designed experiential training programs.

Director at C I B S

September 1997 - June 2008 (10 years 10 months)

Promoted this company with friends. We run www.chennaionline.com - a very successful and profitable city portal with more than 20 million page views a month. We are one of the very few

survivors - and running profitably at that - from the heydays of dotcom!

1 recommendation available upon request

Adviser - Technology at Ma Foi

July 2007 - May 2008 (11 months)

CEO at MinVesta Infotech Limited

February 2006 - July 2007 (1 year 6 months)

MinVesta is a software product company specialising in the HR domain - incubated by Ma Foi, India's #1 HR services company.

Head - Technology & Career Training at Ma Foi

May 2004 - January 2006 (1 year 9 months)

1 recommendation available upon request

Chief Trainer at Virtusa (India)

June 2002 - April 2004 (1 year 11 months)

I was completely responsible for selecting and training fresh graduate engineers - both in campus and off-campus.

3 recommendations available upon request

CTO at Arkin Systems (P) Ltd

April 2001 - March 2002 (1 year)

CTO at Future Focus Infotech

February 1997 - March 2001 (4 years 2 months)

Consultant (Self-Employed)

April 1996 - September 1997 (1 year 6 months)

Strategic Consultant at K7 Computing

April 1996 - December 1996 (9 months)

Head - Software Group at Firstware Software Solutions

October 1994 - March 1996 (1 year 6 months)

Director - Technical at Brilliant's Computer Centre

November 1989 - September 1994 (4 years 11 months)

4 recommendations available upon request

Manager - Systems at Kody Computers

January 1989 - October 1989 (10 months)

Education

St Joseph's College, Trichy

B Sc, Physics, 1973 - 1976

St Peters High School

1966 - 1972

A M Jain Institute of Management

PG Diploma, Computer Programming, 1983

City & Guilds

Diploma, Training

Interests

Programming languages, Chess, Bridge, Tamil

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9 people have recommended Asokan

"Asokan and I have worked very closely on many technology projects. Asokan's passion for training, the open source movement and technology is breathtaking. Asokan is now a friend and mentor."

— **Srini RamaKrishnan**, was with another company when working with Asokan at Chennai Interactive Business Services

"Asokan, as a trainer and as a trainer of trainers, personifies what I call "Learning by being"."

— **Jayasimha Makineni**, *Consultant, Ma Foi Management Consultants*, reported to Asokan at Ma Foi Management Consultants Ltd

"I was trained by Asokan on basic programming course at the very beginning of my software career. His training methodology provides very long term benefits to individuals, not just related to the course being taught, but also about being a professional. He has been my mentor and guide since the start of my career and I have benefited a lot from my association with him as he has a very intuitive understanding of human behavior and reactions."

— **Jitendra Singh**, *Associate Tech Lead, Virtusa*, reported to Asokan at Virtusa (India)

"Asokan is an effective trainer and a great mentor."

— **Prashanth Mukkala**, *Associate Software Engineer, Virtusa*, reported to Asokan at Virtusa (India)

"Asokan is one of the best technical trainers I have seen - because he focuses on three things: imparting his love for the subject to his students; teaching them how to learn, and his unwavering focus on first principles. Harsha Kumar, Virtusa Corp"

— **Harsha Kumar**, *VP, Client Services (Global Enterprise BU), Virtusa Corp*, managed Asokan at Virtusa (India)

"Asokan is one person I respect most as a Mentor. I was associated with Asokan during my first IT job, where as a colleague he had come to train us in our respective job assignments. He was our Mentor. His observation skills, time management, patience, eye for detail, passion towards the subject and students, are very admirable and inspiring. One of the key factors is that all his

students admire him and will remember what ever he has taught through out their lives. I have personally learnt a lot from him and I wish that many more people who come in association with him, leverage on his knowledge, skills and learn from him."

— **Sujatha Das**, *Sr. Faculty, Brilliants Computers*, worked indirectly for Asokan at Brilliant's Computer Centre

"The name Asokan always drew awe and inspiration amongst the younger folk in the firm. He was an intellectual force to reckon with and a sounding board for all ideas across all ranks. His understanding of technology is outstanding. Not only is he extremely knowledgable about the inner trappings of technical details, he can also relate the uses and ramifications of technology with sheer brilliance. A man of immense integrity and standing, I can't think of anybody else in my working career who earned the symbiotic title of "manager and leader" better than Asokan."

— **Srikanth Beldona**, *Corporate Manager - Marketing, First Computers*, worked indirectly for Asokan at Brilliant's Computer Centre

"It is rare that one comes across a person as bright and talented as Asokan . He is a visionary. His thinking is very sharp, he can cut across details and come to the point. His graps on technology and its use is enormous. In presentations, he can marshall all facts and can deliver delicate but hard hitting punches to make his point. He has been a mentor and a guru to many young techies. It was a pleasure working with him."

— **Chandru Chander Shekar**, *General Manager - Max Centres, Brilliants Computer Center*, reported to Asokan at Brilliant's Computer Centre

"Few people make long term impact on ones Career, in my case; my sustained interest in Technology and ability to venture into new areas was all because of having a mentor like Asokan. In a manner of speaking.. I owe much of my career growth and knowledge skill to him... An amazing personality to work with.."

— **Sivakumar [Siva] Mambakkam**, *Senior Training Staff, Brilliant Computer Center*, reported to Asokan at Brilliant's Computer Centre

[Contact Asokan on LinkedIn](#)