

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Head of Software Development (Connected TV)

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#### CONTEXT

Digital UK leads the development of Freeview, the nation's most widely used television platform. Our goal is to create the best free TV service, both live and on-demand.

Partnerships are crucial to what we do. We work with world-leading companies to deliver television which informs, educates and entertains, ensuring every home in the UK can access high-quality television without the need for a monthly subscription. We are owned and funded by our shareholders, the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Arqiva.

The company co-ordinates the management and development of the UK's digital terrestrial television (DTT) platform in the UK. Digital UK is co-located and works in close collaboration with Digital Television Services Limited, which leads on consumer marketing of the Freeview brand. Together these two companies run the Freeview TV platform and services.

Freeview is the largest TV platform in the country, used in 18m homes. It offers viewers the best of free-to-view television – live and on-demand – across TVs, set-top-boxes and mobile devices. Digital UK launched Freeview Play as a hybrid TV service in 2015, and subsequently launched its mobile application in 2019 on iOS and Android.

#### OUR VISION

Our vision is for Freeview to be the world's best free television service, because we believe everyone has a right to great TV for free.

#### THE WAY WE WORK

**Collaborative** – We are open, collaborative and always respect each other and all our partners.

**Creative** – We are smarter, more agile and more creative than our competitors. We find innovative solutions and open up opportunities to deliver our vision.

**Ambitious** – We are determined and ambitious about our work, always delivering the very best for our viewers.

**Positive** – We bring positive to everything we do, sharing in our successes and learning from our mistakes together – without judgement or blame.

#### ABOUT THE ROLE

This role is within the Digital UK's Technology team. The team is responsible for the technical management and development of the Freeview television platform.

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing Digital UK's software development activities. This will include managing work across an enthusiastic, motivated and productive software team of approximately five in-house and contract developers.

The software products you will work on span the Full Stack with a likely greater emphasis on Front-End development – specifically for HbbTV / HTML5 based Connected TV applications. However, you will need to be equally confident in managing development spanning Android TV apps, Android and iOS mobile apps, back-end services supporting these apps and analytics and DevOps deployment.

You will work closely with technical architects, product owners and other subject matter experts within Digital UK and content partners. You will also interface with external software developers working for TV equipment manufacturers, connected TV player app developers (e.g. iPlayer, ITV Hub, etc.) and third-party technology system providers.

Your work will be critical to the development of the Freeview Play connected television service – which is already, at the end of October 2019, used in 5.4 million TVs and is a standard feature of the majority of the new televisions and receivers which are sold each year within the UK.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Managing the Full Stack connected TV software development activities delivered by Digital UK's software team.
- Directing, prioritising and guiding the work of approximately five in-house and contract developers.
- Supporting the personal development of more junior members of the team through a combination of sharing your experience, development task learning and coaching.
- Establishing and embedding effective processes for managing ongoing development and software maintenance activities.
- Providing specific advice to Broadcasters and Content Providers who are developing and maintaining Connected TV applications.
- Providing advice to manufacturer partners to help ensure technical specifications are fully understood and that Connected TV integration issues are diagnosed.
- Reviewing, triaging and responding to technical questions.
- Developing your knowledge of HbbTV, HTML5, Android TV and other IP video technologies.
- Assisting in the development and support (DevOps) of back-end content and metadata delivery systems (CDNs).
- Within 12-18 months this role is likely to encompass providing line management in-house junior software developers.

## **SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

- At least 5 years' experience of developing and maintaining a range of complex software products and services – ideally spanning front and back-end applications.

- At least 2 years' experience of developing IP video applications, TV products or services (ideally spanning Connected TV, web and mobile).
- A strong and broad knowledge of IP video technologies, including: HTML5, JavaScript, CSS, MPEG4, HEVC, DASH or other adaptive streaming technologies.
- Proven management and (small) dev team supervision skills – at least as a lead developer, ideally in directing and managing the work of the team.
- Good planning, organisation, logical planning and delivery skills.
- Enthusiasm to develop your career as a software developer with a desire to expand your knowledge and experience.
- Good written and oral communication skills.

#### **DESIRABLE (At least one of following is required)**

- Experience of HTML5 based Connected TV app development.
- Experience of Mobile or Web-based IP video app development.
- Experience of Connected TV test tool development.
- Experience of using Agile product development methods and defect tracking tools such as Atlassian JIRA.
- Experience of using Wireshark (or other network traffic analysis tools) to identify problems with complex consumer electronic systems.
- Experience of video DRM technologies such as Playready, Marlin, Widevine, FairPlay, etc.

Many of the manufacturer partners Digital UK works with are based in China and Taiwan, and although all technical documentation and correspondence is conducted in English, it would be potentially beneficial to have experience of:

- Explaining complex technical requirements to partners whose first language is typically not English.
- Conversing in Mandarin.

#### **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**

- Helpful, collaborative and a considerate team member who always supports their colleagues.
- Strong attention to detail, well organised and eager to learn.
- Effective listening skills, good verbal communication skills.
- Able to manage working relationships with a wide range of partners and stakeholders in a productive way.
- Thrives when working in a small company.
- Passion for the success of the UK television industry.
- Interested and committed to making the company a great place to work.

#### **LOCATION**

Central London, Fitzrovia