

Matthew Hood

Date of Birth: 14 November 1981
Residence: Unit 1, Komaneka Villas
Tamarin, 90901, Mauritius
Phone: (230) 570-92833
Email: mchood@live.com
Nationality: South African
Family: Married with two children
Resume Date: July 2024

LOOKING FOR A CANDIDATE WHO

- Has 15+ years experience in technical, business and product roles while being able to bridge the gap between them.
- Shows a solid track record of shipping successful products and delivering platforms powering profitable online marketplaces, media and fintech businesses.
- Built organisations from the ground up as an owner or director into successful, ongoing concerns.
- Stays on top of the latest trends in technology serving on the AI Board and Metaverse Advisory Team for multinational organisations.
- Has excellent communication and presentation skills and is able to effectively interact with all levels of an organisation.
- Understands research and a user driven analytical approach having completed world renowned Strategizer evidence based coaching.
- Is able to work effectively remotely while also confident visiting operational teams around the world.
- Demonstrated doing the job themselves but also managing more than twelve subteams focusing on topics including ML, SEO, BI, Optimizations, UX, UI Design, and product feature building and monetization.
- Others see as the go to person to find a solution where most only see problems.

RECENT WORK HISTORY

Product Director

Ringier South Africa (2019 - present)
Create and scale Ringier group shared platforms and services.

Head of Vertical Property

Ringier One Africa Media (2016 - 2019)
Business decision maker for group African property platforms.

Shareholder and Head of Technology

Webdev (2011 - 2016)
Tech lead for largest general and property classifieds, payment gateway, EVD platform, web development and hosting provider in Zimbabwe.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science Computer Science Honours - *Rhodes University (2004).*

Bachelor of Science Information Systems - *Rhodes University (2001 - 2003).*

Certificate in Effective Communication - *Trinity College London (1999).*

Detailed Work History

Product Director

Ringier South Africa

March 2019 - Present

Spearheading product development for Ringier South Africa. Overseeing a suite of innovative platforms for jobs, property, and general classifieds marketplaces. While designing and developing cutting-edge technologies, including AI, data processing, business intelligence, technical marketing, and SEO, to enhance marketplace and media businesses across Africa, Eastern Europe, and Switzerland for the Ringier group.

Serving as a key representative for the Global Tech and Data Unit across various Ringier advisory entities, including the AI Board and Steering Committee. I play a pivotal role in shaping and advancing the Ringier Global Data and AI Strategy.

Lead and manage diverse remote teams responsible for the development and execution of these solutions, ensuring world-class delivery and performance.

Head of Vertical - Property

ROAM (Ringier One Africa Media)

September 2018 - February 2019

Promoted to take on oversight of the property marketplaces for ROAM including

- Budgets for each country.
- Managing growth plans to achieve targets.
- Product design and implementation by Mauritius dev team.
- Weekly and Monthly reporting and planning from operations managers in each country.

Tech Lead - Property

ROAM (Ringier One Africa Media)

October 2016 - September 2018

Webdev was in a merger with Ringier One Africa Media. I was appointed Technology Lead for the Property Vertical of Ringier One Africa Media. Responsible for the following portals and related client sites buyrentkenya.com, property.co.zw, propertycloud.mu, mamaison.sn, privateproperty.com.ng

Shareholder / Head of Technology

Webdev Zimbabwe

January 2012 - September 2016

Webdev acquired Softwarehouse in order to strengthen its software development capabilities and allow the creation of high end software solutions including:

classifieds.co.zw: (Product manager and Lead developer) largest online classifieds platform in Zimbabwe which was later released in Mauritius and used as inspiration for the ROAM classifieds platform operated across Africa. Developed in Laravel (php) on MySQL and ElasticSearch.

paynow.co.zw: (Product manager and lead developer) first mainstream online payment gateway in Zimbabwe integrating Visa, MasterCard, Vpayments, EcoCash and TeleCash. Allowing merchant site and email integration as well as bill payments and shopping carts. Developed in C# .Net MVC on SQL Server.

property.co.zw: (Developer) largest property vertical in Zimbabwe and later installed in Mauritius and taken on as the property vertical for ROAM and used in Senegal, Nigeria and Kenya.

As a shareholder in Webdev, after the acquisition of Softwarehouse, I was also involved as a board member, director and contributed to senior management decisions.

Shareholder / Solutions Architect

Softwarehouse

April 2009 - December 2011

Joined as a partner/shareholder and head developer to create software for the large Zimbabwean/Dutch horticultural sector, ultimately resulted in a successful suite of products to manage the flower export process from farm to shipping to sale by the Dutch Flower Group and remittance of payments.

The business then diversified into custom software development for financial services companies in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Developer

Softwarehouse

March 2005 - March 2009

Joined as a junior developer making customer websites in Cold Fusion then Joomla. Ultimately promoted to head of development and tasked with decision making on hosting and systems administration.