

Zachary McDonald

Senior IBM i Software Engineer | RPGLE Modernization | Technical Team Lead | Certified ScrumMaster

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior IBM i Software Engineer and Certified ScrumMaster with strong experience leading Agile teams through the modernization of enterprise IBM i applications. Combines deep technical expertise with collaborative leadership, backlog-driven delivery, and continuous improvement practices to deliver stable, maintainable systems aligned with evolving business needs.

CORE SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

IBM i / Enterprise Development

IBM i (AS/400, iSeries), RPG, RPGLE (Free-form), CL, DDS, Embedded SQL, DB2 for i

Interactive, Batch, and Subfile Applications

Legacy System Modernization

Agile & Delivery Practices

Agile / Scrum

Sprint Planning, Backlog Refinement, and Iterative Delivery

Cross-Functional Team Collaboration

Hybrid Agile / SDLC Environments

Development Tools & Modernization

Visual Studio Code (VS Code)

Rational Developer for i (RDI)

X-Analysis, TDOMS

Version Control Integration

AI-Assisted Refactoring, Documentation, and Code Analysis

Work Management & Collaboration Tools

Jira

JQL (Jira Query Language)

Workflow Tracking, Backlog Management, Reporting

Business & Productivity Tools

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)

Technical Reporting, Documentation, Stakeholder Presentations

Leadership & Engineering Practices

Technical Team Leadership

Project & Delivery Leadership

System Design & Architecture

Technical Documentation

Mentoring & Onboarding

Code Standards & Review

CERTIFICATIONS & EDUCATION

Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) — Scrum Alliance

IBM AS/400 Specialist Certificate - Chattanooga State Community College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

IBM i Software Engineer / Team Lead

Collabera (Remote Contract)

May 2025 – Nov 2025

Spearheaded AI-assisted modernization initiatives, leveraging LLMs to refactor legacy enterprise logic into modular, modern RPGLE within an Agile/Scrum delivery model, tracked and coordinated through Jira.

Supported sprint execution through estimation, prioritization, and continuous feedback to align technical delivery with business goals.

Oversaw full SDLC execution while balancing Agile flexibility with disciplined coding standards, documentation, and release management.

IBM i Software Engineer / Team Lead

Fresche Solutions (Remote)

May 2023 – Apr 2025

Led and collaborated with a globally distributed team of 15 direct reports across multiple countries, serving as project lead for IBM modernization initiatives, delivered an actual and hybrid at waterfall environments with work planned, tracked, and reported in Jira

Led and participated in Scrum ceremonies,

Designed system architectures and produced comprehensive technical documentation to support iterative development and long-term maintainability.

Performed hands-on IBM i development, including hand-coded zone-to-free RPG conversions, improving code readability, maintainability, and long-term support.

Utilized JQL to create filters and reports supporting backlog management, sprint tracking, and delivery visibility.

Mentored developers in Agile delivery practices, estimation, and incremental delivery within IBM i modernization projects, while increasing delivery cadence

Team Lead / Senior Programmer

ABC Fine Wine & Spirits (Remote)

Jan 2022 – Mar 2023

Led system design and Agile-aligned project delivery for IBM i applications supporting retail operations.

Designed, developed, and maintained RPG/RPGLE applications following established software engineering best practices.

Created and maintained technical documentation to support system operations and future enhancements.

Provided expert-level IBM i troubleshooting and performance optimization to ensure uninterrupted business operations.

Team Lead / Senior Programmer (Hybrid)

Heartland Cooperative

West Des Moines, IA

Nov 2015 – Jan 2022

Led cross-functional teams delivering IBM i solutions using Agile and iterative delivery practices, transitioning projects from ad-hoc execution to structured delivery.

Translated business requirements into prioritized technical work, supporting backlog creation, refinement, and sprint-based delivery.

Guided teams through sprint execution while maintaining stability for mission-critical agricultural and financial systems.

Balanced Agile delivery with traditional SDLC controls to ensure compliance, documentation, and operational reliability.

Drove continuous improvement through retrospectives, process refinement, and developer mentoring.

Senior iSeries Developer

American Packaging Corporation

Story City, IA

Jul 2012 – Nov 2015

Served as Project Lead on multiple IBM i initiatives, owning system design, development, and implementation.

Developed interactive and batch applications supporting manufacturing operations.

Produced detailed technical documentation to support maintenance, audits, and future enhancements.

Provided ongoing IBM i system support to ensure reliable business operations.

EARLIER CAREER EXPERIENCE

Senior iSeries Developer / Programmer roles, progressing from entry-level to senior responsibilities, with:

Aladdin, Cabela's, Charleston Hosiery, Dixie Group, EHS, JMA, MIQ, Retalix, Spring industry, Tandus, Variety Distributors