CURRICULUM VITAE

Thomas Mäder

Founder of Castle Ridge Software · Eclipse Theia project lead

Wil SG, Switzerland · LinkedIn

I'm the founder of Castle Ridge Software and a project lead on Eclipse Theia. I've been building developer tools for decades — from the original Eclipse Java IDE at IBM to contributions on OpenJ9, JDT, Che, and today's cloud-native IDE platforms.

Through Castle Ridge I help companies design, extend, and ship custom IDEs and tooling with the depth of someone who has worked in these platforms for years.

EXPERIENCE

Castle Ridge Software

Founder — Sep 2022 – Present

Java LS

- Created a highly efficient Java language server based on source-only indexing. Java LS is faster at cold startup than any other offering available on the market and scales linearly in time and heap memory with workspace size. The language server is availble as a VS Code extension on the VS Code Marketplace and OpenVSX

Java and Kotlin LSP · Cursor

- Worked for Cursor with JetBrains on their Java and Kotlin LSP, giving technical advice and made sure the project was aligned with Cursor interest.

Metals V2 · Cursor

- Worked on Metals V2 as a technical advisor
- Oversaw contractor relationship making sure project was on time and tracked implemented features.

Eclipse Theia · EclipseSource / ST Microelectronics

- Worked on Eclipse Theia as a maintainer and project lead.
- Contributed major improvements like backend preferences or a new RPC protocol infrastructure.
- Led efforts like closely tracking compatibility with VS Code API and the push towards Theia IDE.

Red Hat

Principal Software Engineer — Aug 2018 – Sep 2022

- Project lead for the Eclipse Theia project
- Integration of Theia into Eclipse Che and Red Hat CRW

Senior Software Developer — Mar 2016 – Aug 2018

- Working on JBoss tooling, Eclipse Che, language server protocol

Netcetera

Senior Software Developer, Line Manager — Mar 2013 – Feb 2016

- Program Chair and co-organizer of the Jazoon software development conference
- Customer projects and internal consulting
- Line manager of a team of 5 developers

Lakepoint AG

Lead Software Developer — Jan 2012 – Jan 2013

- Development of a trade management system for hedge funds

Wuala

Head of Development — Feb 2011 – Aug 2011

- Technical lead of a team of ~15 developers
- Hiring new team members
- Responsible for the company's software development process

Software Developer / Project Manager — Aug 2009 – Jan 2011

- Responsible for file system integrations
- Introduced release and testing practices

Devotek IT

Founder — Aug 2008 – Jul 2009

- My first foray into contracting. Then the financial crisis happened.

Siron Enterprise Cockpit Designer · Tonbeller AG

- Contributed to an EMF-based development tool for a German medium enterprise.

Ecofin

Senior Software Developer — Oct 2004 – Aug 2008

- Worked on an advisory tool for pension funds based on modern portfolio theory
- Front end lead
- Converted a Swing front end to a web-based front end

IBM / Object Technology International

Senior Software Developer — Jan 1998 – Aug 2004

- Worked on the IBM J9 Java virtual machine, mostly on the debug interface
- Worked on Visual Age MicroEdition, an IDE for programming embedded systems in Java
- Component lead for Eclipse IDE search
- Committer for Eclipse IDE Search & JDT

UBILAB

Student Employee — 1995 – 1997

- Worked on the Calanda time series database, in particular the calendar system

SKILLS

Expertise — IDE architecture and custom developer tools · Language tooling (LSP, DAP, JVM debug, Compilers) · Eclipse, Theia, and VS Code platforms

Stack — Java · TypeScript · Node.js

Leadership — Open source project lead · Technical advisory · Engineering management

Languages — German — native · English, French — fluent · Spanish — conversational

EDUCATION

ETH Zürich

MSc in Computer Science