



STC – Europe: Software Development Engineer (SDE)

Are you looking to tackle problems at Internet scale? Do you find yourself using Search and being frustrated that you cannot find the right results? Are you interested in international markets and care deeply about presenting a global experience to our customers? Are you looking for a start-up like work environment, but appreciate the backing of an established organization? Do you relish being in the role of an underdog facing stiff competition? You have found the right team!

The Search Technology Center (STC) Europe is just now being created and this is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor. STC Europe is working in partnership with Live Search and Microsoft Research to deliver innovative Internet Search products and services to the European and global markets.

The Search Technology Center (STC) Europe - Is focused on improving the overall search platform and relevance of search results in European markets. Deep interactions with research, incubation projects, structured data indexing, relevance measurements, results ranking, data mining, index composition, spelling, are some of the topics that will keep this team busy. Our efforts will span the search runtime, search platform, web crawling and indexing, and user data platform. We have a distributed system with tens of thousands of computers (and growing) to return results from billions of documents, several thousand queries at a time, in a matter of milliseconds. Crawling and indexing the web is a large scale distributed problem with exacting needs in speed, accuracy, and comprehensiveness - and expanding relevant coverage across markets poses additional unique challenges.

Why STC Europe?

- Europe contains three of the four highest-value, highest volume search markets (UK, Germany, and France).
- We need strong talent on the ground to improve our results and until now we have had only minimal product development resources to support these markets. This is a rare opportunity to join a new team where you can see an immediate impact through your contributions.
- We are made up of a team of dedicated leaders and technical contributors passionate about delivering the best search experience for Microsoft customers in Europe and around the world.
- STC Europe works on a diverse set of projects ranging from ownership of Search in Europe to enhancing the global search platforms.
- You will have the opportunity to work with world class researchers from MSR Cambridge and to closely collaborate with developers in Redmond, Munich, Paris, and China.
- For the right candidate this is a chance to combine international experience with a front line seat in our battle for Web Search in Europe.

Role & Responsibilities:

We are looking for talented Software Development Engineers - Individuals with a desire to code & architect solutions to difficult problems, with the ability to create, innovate, and define the next generation of Search. If you have experience in areas such as parallel or distributed processing, high performance computing, large scale n-tiered Web Applications, then we are interested in you. As one of the key players of our User Experience and Answers team, you will be working closely with other highly motivated Search engineers.

The goal of our team is simple: index every database in the world and build a rich User Interface to expose this information in a structured, strongly typed fashion. The UX and Answers team delights our users, one problem domain at a time. Are you passionate about sports, movies, travel, music, or commerce? We have a backlog of hundreds of answers waiting to be added to Live Search. Everything from "Where is the cheapest petrol?" to "What happened to the other guy from the band Wham?" to "What movies did Catherine Deneuve appear in with Marcello Mastroianni?"

If you have a passion for collaborating with talented individuals, for coding efficient implementations of challenging algorithms, for excelling in a small, dynamic, team-oriented environment, and for producing production-quality services that compete directly with offerings from Yahoo, Google, and others, then you will be interested in us.

Required Qualifications:

Success in this position requires a broad set of experiences and skills, ranging from excellence in core engineering to the ability to build a collaborative working relationship with other developers and across disciplines.

We are looking for a passionate, creative, self-starting Software Developer Engineers who thrive in a start-up environments where you will be required to engage in multiple simultaneous projects. You will be expected to work on many levels - from high level vision, to design and implementations of both self-contained components and large, team-oriented code bases. Your C#/C++ coding skills will be challenged writing scalable, distributed, and highly efficient components. Candidates must have a proven track record of shipping highly-scalable and reliable web-enabled services through multiple product cycles while dealing with challenges such as cross-team dependencies, rapid shipping schedules, and ambiguous requirements. Fluency in German, French, or Spanish is a plus.

The required qualifications for this position include:

- BS in Computer Science required
- Strong theory/algorithm background and very good understanding on how to apply advanced knowledge to solve real problems.
- Solid OO design, coding and debugging skills
- Software design and development skills/experience with C++/C#/Java
- Web UI development skills: xHTML, XML, XSLT, CSS, JS, WS, SOAP
- Prior work on large scale database and web applications or platforms preferred
- Highly desirable:
 - A background in Information Retrieval (IR)
 - Working knowledge of SQL database design and implementation
 - IIS and ASP.NET
 - Data mining solutions on text data
- Ability to work independently and in a team to research innovative solutions to challenging business/technical problems
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English are required, fluency in another European language such as German, French, or Spanish is desired

This position can be located in London, Paris or Munich and may require travel within Europe and to Redmond, USA.