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**FREELANCE TECHNICAL  
TRANSLATOR**  
*English to French*

## PROFILE

I am a qualified IT professional with an honours degree in software and electrical engineering and eleven years' commercial experience as an engineer, as well as a writer, publisher and technical translator. A French national holding New Zealand citizenship since 2006, I moved to New Zealand with my husband in September 2002. I first worked as a software engineer in my home country for eighteen months, then in the UK for four years and finally in New Zealand for six years. After settling in Christchurch I soon started working at Trimble Navigation NZ, first as an embedded software developer and then as a senior test engineer. However, despite my technical training I have always had a passion for writing and foreign languages. This is why I recently started offering high-level English-to-French technical translation services to IT companies that are leaders in their field.

I am enthusiastic and always willing to take on new challenges. Indeed, it is my thirst for new challenges which pushed me to write (in English) and self-publish my first award-winning cookbook in 2005, shortly after having my first child. Since then, I have self-published another three award-winning cookbooks (and have had another three babies), as well as a self-publishing guide. Two of my books have been translated into several languages and sold onto foreign markets. In addition to writing and managing every aspect of the production of my books on tight deadlines, I have learnt to do my own food photography, negotiated foreign rights contracts with large overseas publishers on my own and have been working as a food writer for various newspapers and magazines for three years. In 2009, I decided to accept a publishing offer from HarperCollins Publishers, one of the largest English-language publishing houses in the world, in order to take my food writing career to the next level.

During the last decade, I have had the opportunity to deal with customers in foreign environments and to be fully involved in the way of life of several countries while remaining well aware of all the elements that make up the French culture. In addition to being a very organised and methodical person, I have excellent communication abilities, am able to quickly adapt to new situations and like working in a team as well as on my own.

I wish to use my skills in a job that I love and this is why I decided to take full advantage of my knowledge of foreign languages and communication abilities as well as of my knowledge of the IT industry and technical skills to work as a freelance technical translator. I believe that my skills, industrial experience and personal attributes are perfectly suited to deliver technical translations of the highest level to any leading-edge company aiming to successfully market and sell their products onto French-speaking territories.

With the boom in new technologies, the need for high quality technical translations is growing but finding a translator with an excellent understanding of technical aspects, let alone with actual commercial experience spanning over ten years in three different countries as an engineer, is nearly impossible. I believe this makes me the technical translator of choice for any company serious in its ambition to tackle the large French market.

I am naturally fully conversant and particularly interested in the fields of IT, electronics and software engineering but can of course translate documents of any nature. Should you require my services in the future, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

## KEY STRENGTHS

- Native French speaker, fluent in English and good communication skills.
- Excellent IT technical skills; enjoys taking responsibilities.
- Methodical and organised individual with an energetic and motivated personality.
- Able to work to tight schedules; have never missed a deadline.
- Experience in dealing with customers and working in a team as well as individually.

## RECENT TRANSLATION WORK

- *User installation manual for solar inverter*
- *Fresh Start – 112 page cookbook*
- *Self-Publish! A guide to publishing your own work – 186 page non-fiction book*

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY / COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE**

**Jan 05 – to date :**

Organisation: Christelle Le Ru Books Ltd

Position: Director, author, food writer, food photographer, publisher and technical translator.

Responsibilities:

- Over the course of five years, I self-published four award-winning cookbooks, learnt to do my own food photography, published a self-publishing guide which I was commissioned to translate into French and was published on the French market, and became a food writer for several newspapers and magazines. Despite not knowing the first thing about the book industry to start with, I successfully managed to handle every aspect of each of my publishing projects, from design and production to releasing my books on schedule, marketing, sales, promotion and foreign rights negotiations.
- My first cookbook, published in 2005, was nominated at the widely recognised Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. My next cookbooks were all also nominated at these awards. I used my technical skills to set up my website and integrate many features including newsletter management and ecommerce of downloadable products.
- I attended the Frankfurt book fair in 2006 as well as the Gourmand World Cookbook awards in Paris in 2009. I had the opportunity to meet many foreign publishers during these events. This, coupled with extensive online research, allowed me to negotiate and conclude several foreign rights contracts with publishers on various markets including the Arab world and French-speaking territories. I was additionally commissioned to do the French translation of two of my books myself.
- In 2009 I signed a publishing deal with HarperCollins Publishers. I expect this will create new opportunities to further my writing career. In particular, I hope that the large resources and numerous contacts that the foreign rights department of such a large publisher enjoys will help me get published onto markets such as the US and the UK which have been difficult for me to reach as a self-publishing author.

**Nov 02 – May 08 :**

Organisation: Trimble Navigation Ltd in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Position: Embedded software developer & senior test engineer, reporting to Software Development manager

Responsibilities:

- I initially worked as an embedded software developer in the Mapping & GIS department, and was involved in development projects for several versions of the Windows Mobile-powered GeoExplorer Series handheld device. I worked in a team of eight developers and quickly integrated into my new work environment. Over the years I developed excellent work relationships with the development, test, marketing and support teams.
- I soon moved onto a senior test engineer role with my primary duty being the quality assurance of the GeoExplorer Series devices. I quickly took significant responsibility for tracking development of a quality product, to the point where I became the direct liaison with the Microsoft Logo Test Kit contact. The best measure of my success in my role was the successful submission to Microsoft's independent test lab, NSTL, of multiple product releases and the eventual self-testing status Trimble was awarded as a result.

Technology used: Windows CE 3.0 and 4.1 (CE.net), Windows Mobile 5.0 and 6.0; Bluetooth; Wifi; C language development; Real time debugging; MS DOS; Windows XP;

Achievements: As per performance reviews – "Christelle's work during crunch times to complete Logo Test cycles in as little as two days showed accountability, speed and precision. Her strong personal commitment to the success of the project saw her work during vacation time and

over weekends several times in order to complete a test cycle and also complete our NSTL submissions during her maternity leave as needed throughout the year gratis.”

“The need to rigorously test functionality was a concern due to the dedication required to ensure accurate testing, communication with various engineering, marketing and testing staff, tracking results, preparation of documentation, and resolution of issues found. Christelle performed this potentially tedious role with admirable focus.”

**Feb 00 – June 02 :**

- I followed my interest in foreign languages by attending the advanced English “Agrégation” course at the French Open University (CNED) in order to improve my knowledge of this language and of translation techniques.
- I first studied while still working full-time before deciding in April 2001 to give up my position at DAI in order to fully commit myself to the course. I studied English literature (classic and contemporary works, novels, poems and plays), English civilisation (of any English speaking country), phonology and phonetics, grammar and translation.
- I read a large number of books dealing with all these topics and I wrote many essays and tests for which I received a personalised correction. I learnt many valuable things from this course and became more and more interested in the specific task of translating documents.

**Sept 98 – Apr 01 :**

Organisation:

Digital Application International Ltd (DAI) in Manchester, United Kingdom. DAI is specialised in large scale systems integration, enterprise application development and integration, automation and control as well as validation and software quality management. DAI delivers turnkey Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) solutions for highly automated warehouses and distribution centres in partnership with the world's leading materials handling contractor Dematic. The company boasts successful implementations in over thirty countries and has several European offices.

Position:

Software developer reporting to project manager

Responsibilities:

- I was involved on a number of automated materials handling projects in the food manufacturing and retail distribution sectors. I developed modules of various Warehouse Management Systems in C language in a UNIX environment. I usually worked in a team of up to 10 people but also carried out some development on my own.
- In all the projects that I took a part in, I had to integrate my modules into the whole WMS as well as test them using Windows-based control screens user interface developed in Visual C++. As DAI is ISO 9001 and TickIT (ISO 9000-3) certified I attended several quality audits and had to respect strictly defined quality methods.
- I was responsible for the development of software used to control Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs) moving pallets around a food-manufacturing site in Galway (Ireland) for the multinational company Coke. I dealt with British and American clients as well as with the German people who supplied to us the AGVs. I carried out the testing with my German counterpart before going to site for commissioning purposes.
- I was involved in the development of a labelling system for QA sampling in a manufacturing site. I designed, coded and tested a driver for a label printer before making a presentation to our British customers and implementing the software on site.

Technology used:

C language development; MS DOS; Windows NT and Windows-based user interface; Unix environment; Use of the English language and occasionally of the German language.

Achievements:

The software I developed proved to go ‘live’ with a minimum of faults after handover and I have always been able to meet the deadlines set by the clients. I had a very good contact with the other persons in my team as well as with the customers I was involved with.

**Nov 97 – Sept 98 :**

Organisation: ITIS, HARRIS Group in Rennes, France. Harris is an international communications equipment company focused on providing product, system, and service solutions for commercial and government customers. The company's five operating divisions serve markets for microwave, broadcast, network support, secure tactical radio, and government communications systems. It is the industry leader in analog, digital-ready and digital transmission equipment, studio products and systems. ITIS carries out DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) and DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) development for Harris.

Position: Embedded applications developer reporting to embedded applications manager

Responsibilities:

- I was a member of the Research and Development department and was part of the embedded applications team. I was involved in the design, development, test and integration of the software as well as in presenting the products to our customers.
- I worked on the development of an ensemble multiplexer, able to multiplex audio, data and service information into an ETS 300 799 compliant stream. I was part of a seven-person team, two of us being dedicated to the embedded side of the development. I studied the European Telecommunication Standard and developed the embedded software for this DAB equipment.

Technology used: Embedded C language development; in-house real time OS; Real time operating system; Real time debugging; FTP and SNMP protocols; MS DOS; Assembler; Windows NT;

Achievements: The software I developed was used in France to broadcast the Football World Cup programs in 1998.

**Feb 97 – Nov 97:**

Organisation: Eltag Bailey, in Paris, France. The company has its headquarters in the Netherlands and operates some 40 manufacturing units employing about 11,000 people in more than 30 countries. The company's technologies are sold worldwide for the automation of various processes in the electric power, chemical and pharmaceutical, oil & gas, pulp and paper, metals and mining, food and beverage and other industries. The Eltag Bailey group includes Hartmann & Braun (now part of ABB), suppliers of a wide range of instrumentation for the process industries including control valve, and electric & hydraulic valve actuators.

Position: Embedded applications developer, reporting to embedded applications manager

Responsibilities:

- As a member of the Research and Development Department I was part of the embedded applications team. I carried out the hardware design and electronic diagrams for a redundant Ethernet board. The main components on this board were 2 highly integrated AMD Pcnnet-ISA II Ethernet controllers and the board was designed with 3 different types of hardware interfaces.
- I designed, coded, tested, validated and integrated in C language the embedded software driver for this board. I worked in a Windows NT environment and used pSOS real time operating system. I acquired a good knowledge of networking environment including heterogeneous networks protocols.
- Eltag Bailey is ISO 9001 certified and I had to respect strictly defined quality procedures. I wrote several documents in English, including hardware and software design and test specifications.

Technology used: Embedded C language development; Real time OS; Real time debugging; Ethernet and TCP/IP, FTP and SNMP protocols; MS DOS; Assembler; Hardware design and test.

Achievements: The software and hardware modules that I developed were successful and I was offered a permanent position within the company. Again, I had and still have a very good contact with many of the persons I worked with.

## EDUCATION

The New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) has assessed my qualifications as comparable to a Bachelor of Engineering degree at a New Zealand university.

- 1992 – 1997** : Student at the INSA (National Institute of Applied Sciences) in Rennes, France, as an electrical engineer. This training is divided into two parts. The first two years consist in a theoretical education in order to acquire the mathematical basis necessary for an engineer. The major subjects are mathematics, physics, chemicals and computing as well as foreign languages. The following three years are a specialisation in a specific domain of engineering. I chose to specialise in electronics, computing, networking and distributed controlled systems. I scored over 870 points at the TOEFL examination (Test of English as a Foreign Language). I was graduated one year early in June 1997.
- 1992** : Graduated one year early and with the honours (marks above 80%) from the 'Baccalauréat C' - the equivalent of the 'A' level - in mathematics, sciences and foreign languages. My marks were over 90% in English, German and Latin.
- 1989** : Graduated from the 'Brevet des collèges' - the equivalent of the GCSE- one year early. I started to study foreign languages in 1985 and I have been interested in foreign languages ever since. I studied English, German and Latin and as I was not allowed to follow any more foreign language courses at school, I decided to start learning Spanish on my own.

## TRAINING COURSES

- Aug – Sept 1995** : Six-week training course at the refinery in Donges (ELF Group). I studied the new regulation system of the gas turbine. I improved my skills in automatism, computing and digital circuits.
- July 1993** : Four-week training course at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique (ALSTOM group) in Saint-Nazaire. I realised a manual about automatism and distributed controlled systems.

## LANGUAGES

- French : **native speaker**
- English : **fluent**
- German : **very good knowledge**
- Spanish : basics

## SPORTS & HOBBIES

- Swimming : daily
- Biking : daily
- Tennis : individual and team competitions for 12 years.
- Piano : have been playing for 25-year.
- Reading and writing

## MISCELLANEOUS

- French national and New Zealand citizen
- Clean driving license.
- 34 years old, married, four children aged 8 months to five years old.

## REFEREES

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| 1) Kevin Lomax,<br>Project Manager at DAI (UK)<br>e-mail : <a href="mailto:kevin.lomax@dai.ltd.uk">kevin.lomax@dai.ltd.uk</a> | 2) Simon Dyer<br>Software Development Manager at Trimble Navigation (NZ)<br>e-mail : <a href="mailto:info@2clight.com">info@2clight.com</a> |
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