

Former Gumtree and eBay technology executive joins hipages as CTO

hipages continues growth with CTO appointment

Sydney, Australia, 11 November 2016 - [hipages](#), Australia's go-to app and website for finding and hiring trusted tradies, has today announced the appointment of its first ever Chief Technology Officer, Paolo Ragone, to help manage the technology company's fast growing development team.

The appointment of Paolo will help cement hipages as Australia's number one marketplace for hiring tradies. Paolo's new position follows a slew of new hires, including Karl Cope, Chief Financial Officer, Jodette Cleary, Chief People Officer, as well as Tracy Richardson, Chief Marketing Officer and Gideon Kline, Chief Commercial Officer earlier this year.

An experienced technology leader in Australia and abroad, Paolo has held a number of high profile roles at a number of successful technology companies, including Head of Product & Innovation at eBay and CTO of Gumtree. Paolo was the driving force behind Gumtree's local development, heading up their Australian technology and completely redesigned the two-sided marketplace platform, introducing instant messaging and innovative delivery processes.

"I was looking for a new space where I could work with an agile and growing team, and hipages represents that for me," Paolo said. "I come from an entrepreneur background, and when meeting with David, Jodette and the other members of the team, I really got a sense of their energy and excitement about the space, so I was immediately interested in joining the hipages team."

"hipages is continuing to grow, and I have an opportunity to work alongside David Vitek, who has been the driving force behind the hipages technology. He's an incredible mind to be working with and it's an honour to help advance the technology," Paolo continued.

Paolo will be overseeing hipages' growing technology team and managing their continued development. His role will see him focus on putting in place new logistics and policy to ensure that hipages has the skills, communication and discipline to take the company to the next stages of service and growth.

David Vitek, the CEO and co-founder of hipages, said that Paolo's experience in working with two-sided marketplaces represents a valuable asset to hipages.

"We're thrilled to have Paolo join the team and his appointment as CTO represents an enormous evolution of our business. In the past the technology has been managed by various members of the team, but it's exciting to think that we've now outgrown this process!" David said.

Paolo has started in the role, joining the team the same week that hipages took out the award for Top Digital Innovation in the Smart50 Awards.



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About hipages

Founded in a garage by two mates with a big idea in 2004, David Vitek and Roby Sharon-Zipser created hipages, Australia's leading on-demand home improvement marketplace.

With over 2 million unique visitors a month to the platform and more than 200,000 tradie recommendations, hipages connects Aussies with pre-screened home improvement professionals in their local area. A job request is fulfilled every 28 seconds on the hipages platform.

The venture-backed company, which also secured funding from News Corp in 2015, operates Australia wide with more than 80,000 businesses registered and approved by hipages.

hipages has received many awards for cutting edge business strategies, vision, workplace culture and innovation:

- Winner of Top Digital Innovator in SmartCompany Smart50 Awards
- EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National finalists, Eastern Region 2016
- Named in AFR 50 Most Innovative Companies List 2016
- My Business Awards Medium Business of the Year 2015
- Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Australia 2014
- BRW Most Innovative Companies 2014
- BRW Fast 100 2014

