

CHRIS ASHTON

Full-stack Software Engineer

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EXPERIENCE

Developer

Government Digital Service

📅 April 2019 – Present

- Currently developing Rails services and rewriting legacy systems on [GOV.UK](#), using Agile methodologies. Other responsibilities include DevOps, recruitment, and running a11y-focussed newsletters.

Acting Technical Lead

BBC, Articles

📅 Nov 2018 – April 2019

- Led the delivery of v1 of the new BBC article renderer: an isomorphic React single page application and shared component library.

Senior Software Engineer

BBC, Visual Journalism

📅 Feb 2017 – Oct 2018

- Recruited and trained a global team. Line managed and mentored several developers, allocating projects aligning with their goals.
- Upgraded legacy tech stack to pure Node/NPM and Webpack (including bespoke plugins). Migrated deployment pipeline to AWS.
- Volunteered as “Accessibility Champion” and improved standards.

Web Developer

BBC, Visual Journalism

📅 Feb 2016 – Jan 2017

- Devised and implemented an abstraction strategy to deliver Visual Journalism content across the BBC apps, web and third-parties.
- Regularly created multi-lingual, full-stack applications for the web and the BBC apps, covering high profile events to tight deadlines.

Test Engineer

BBC, Visual Journalism

📅 July 2015 – Jan 2016

- Led the maintenance of a screenshot testing tool (Wraith). Hand-built a BDD framework in Node. Set up Docker test suites on CI.

Founder

Webdapper Ltd

📅 Aug 2014 – Present

- Founded my own company whilst at university. To date, I've planned, designed and developed over 10 websites for clients.

Trainee Web Developer

BBC, Visual Journalism

📅 July 2013 – Aug 2014

SUMMARY

Experienced full-stack web developer, specialising in front-end. A pragmatic and organised leader, currently working for the Government Digital Service.

Passions: [a11y](#) [perf](#) [standards](#)

Values: [diversity](#) [flexibility](#) [autonomy](#)

Enjoys: [bouldering](#) [cooking](#) [singing](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS



Graduated top of the class

Awarded *Best Bachelor Degree in Computer Science* out of approx 80 people



'Exceeded' rating

Achieved highest rating in GDS end-of-year review, March 2020



Conference speaker

Spoke at Paris Web 2018



Smashing Magazine contributor

Published a series of articles on smashingmagazine.com



Best Contributor of the Year

Awarded at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015



BBC Symphony Chorus

Have sung in several televised Proms since joining in 2013

EDUCATION

B.Eng. in Software Engineering

Aberystwyth University

📅 Sept 2011 – June 2015

1st class, with Honours; BCS-accredited

AAB (A-Levels), B (AS Level)

Lampeter Comprehensive School

📅 2003 – 2010

13 GCSEs (11 at A*/A)

- Developed the *Commonwealth Games* feature, which was televised on BBC Breakfast. I also took the initiative to translate it to Welsh.
- Templated the 'datapic' format. Blog: <http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz>

PUBLICATIONS

Talks

- "Publishing content to multiple platforms" (2018). In: *Paris Web Conf*: <https://vimeo.com/295213010>.

Books

- Clarke, Jill (2020). *Software Developer. I was asked to provide a section to the Case Studies chapter: 'The Road To Being An Experienced Developer'*. United Kingdom: BCS, pp. 156–157.

Articles

- *I Used The Web For A Day On A 50 MB Budget* (July 2019). URL: <https://smashingmagazine.com/2019/07/web-on-50mb-budget/>.
- *I Used The Web For A Day On Internet Explorer 8* (Mar. 2019). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2019/03/web-on-internet-explorer-ie8/>.
- *What I like about being a developer at GDS* (Aug. 2019). URL: <https://technology.blog.gov.uk/2019/08/14/what-i-like-about-being-a-developer-at-gds/>.
- *How BBC Interactive Content Works Across AMP, Apps, And The Web* (Mar. 2018). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/03/bbc-interactive-content-amp-apps-web/>.
- *I Used The Web For A Day Using A Screen Reader* (Dec. 2018). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/12/voiceover-screen-reader-web-apps/>.
- *I Used The Web For A Day With JavaScript Turned Off* (May 2018). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/05/using-the-web-with-javascript-turned-off/>.
- *I Used The Web For A Day With Just A Keyboard* (July 2018). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/07/web-with-just-a-keyboard/>.
- *High-Impact, Minimal-Effort Cross-Browser Testing* (Feb. 2016). URL: <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2016/02/high-impact-minimal-effort-cross-browser-testing/>.

PROJECTS

StudentMunch.com - food review site, using structured data markup to show as reviews in search results. Built as a Progressive Web App on top of AMP.

Service Workers AMP Offline first
PWA PRPL pattern Structured data

GitHooks.io - horizontally scalable, hosted webhooks platform. Allows developers to write and share GitHub webhooks.

LAMP AWS Lambda EC2 Node
GitHub API OAuth Composer

SmartResolution.org - online dispute resolution platform with plugin support for AI-driven resolutions. Awarded the Best Major Project prize at university.

smartresolution.org

Cucumber & Ruby PHP SQL PDO

Secretary - automatic quality assurance editorial checks for WordPress posts. Built to be extensible and config-driven.

wordpress.org/plugins/secretary/

WordPress YAML SVN Open-source

3D Solar System - solar system written in WebGL.

[chrisbashton.github.io](https://github.com/chrisbashton/3d-solar-system)

WebGL JavaScript HTML5 CSS3

REFEREES

References available upon request.