

CHRIS ASHTON

Senior Software Engineer

Focused on **a11y**, **perf**, **standards**, **docs**
Works at **diverse**, **flexible**, **autonomous** places
Enjoys **bouldering**, **writing**, **singing**



ashton.codes



chris AT ashton.codes



/in/chrisbashton



chrisbashton

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 • PWA • PRPL pattern • Offline first • Structured data

GitHooks.io - horizontally scalable, hosted webhooks platform. Allows developers to write and share GitHub webhooks.
LAMP • AWS Lambda & EC2 • GitHub API • OAuth • Node • Composer

SmartResolution.org - online dispute resolution platform with plugin support for AI-driven resolutions. Awarded the Best Major Project prize at university.
Cucumber & Ruby • PHP • SQL • PDO

Secretary - automatic quality assurance editorial checks for WordPress posts. Built to be extensible and config-driven.
WordPress • YAML • SVN • Open-source
wordpress.org/plugins/secretary/

3D Solar System - solar system written in WebGL.
WebGL • JavaScript • HTML5 • CSS3
[chrisbashton.github.io](https://github.com/chrisbashton)

References

References available upon request.

Profile

Senior full-stack web developer, specialising in delivering responsive and accessible front-end solutions. Currently acting as technical lead for the BBC Articles team.

Achievements

- Awarded **Best Contributor of the Year** at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015
- Graduated top of the class, awarded **Best Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**
- Spoke at the **Paris Web** 2018 conference: <https://vimeo.com/295213010>
- **Published several articles in *Smashing Magazine***; search @ChrisBAShton
- **Founded my own company**, *Webdapper Ltd*, whilst at university
- Sing in the **BBC Symphony Chorus**, whose concerts are broadcast internationally

Experience

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| Nov 2018 - Present | Acting Technical Lead | BBC, Articles |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading the creation of an isomorphic React single page application and shared component library. This is a state of the art renderer for new article pages on News, Sport and World Service. | |
| Feb 2017 - Oct 2018 | Senior Software Engineer | BBC, Visual Journalism |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruited and trained a global team. Line manage and mentor several developers, allocating projects that align with their goals.• Upgraded legacy tech stack to pure Node/NPM and Webpack (including bespoke plugins). Migrated deployment pipeline to AWS.• Promote accessible web design through voluntary role of "Accessibility Champion". Written a series on a11y at <i>Smashing Magazine</i>. | |
| Feb 2016 - Jan 2017 | Web Developer | BBC, Visual Journalism |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devised and implemented an abstraction strategy to deliver Visual Journalism content across the BBC and third-party platforms.• Regularly created multi-lingual, full-stack applications for the web and the BBC apps, covering high profile events to tight deadlines. | |
| Jul 2015 - Jan 2016 | Test Engineer | BBC, Visual Journalism |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led the ongoing development of the Wraith visual regression testing tool, now the BBC's most-starred open-source project.• Hand-built a BDD framework in Node. Ran this on CI, using Docker. | |
| Aug 2014 - Present | Founder | Webdapper Ltd |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planned, designed and developed over 10 websites for clients. | |
| Jul 2013 - Aug 2014 | Trainee Web Developer | BBC, Visual Journalism |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed applications such as the <i>Commonwealth Games</i> feature: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28062001. This was televised on BBC Breakfast. I also took the initiative to translate it to Welsh.• Templated the 'datapic' format. Blog: http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz | |

Education

- 2011 - 2015 **BEng (Hons) Software Engineering** (1st class; BCS-accredited)
Aberystwyth University
- 2003 - 2010 **A-Levels: AAB, AS Level: B, GCSEs: 13** (11 at A*/A)
Lampeter Comprehensive School