

# CHRIS ASHTON

## Senior Software Engineer

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



<https://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/](https://wordpress.org/plugins/secretary/)

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

## References

References available upon request.

## Profile

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

## Achievements

- Graduated top of the class, awarded **Best Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**
- Awarded **Best Contributor of the Year** at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015
- Spoke at the **Paris Web** 2018 conference: <https://vimeo.com/295213010>
- **Published a series of articles in *Smashing Magazine***: </author/chrisbashton/>
- Sing in the **BBC Symphony Chorus**, whose concerts are broadcast internationally

## Experience

- |   |                                 |                            |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| April 2019 - Present  | <b>Developer</b>                | Government Digital Service |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently developing Rails services and rewriting legacy systems on GOV.UK, using Agile methodologies. Other responsibilities include DevOps, recruitment, and running a 11y-focussed newsletters.</li></ul>  |                                 |                            |
| Nov 2018 - April 2019   | <b>Acting Technical Lead</b>    | BBC, Articles              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Led the delivery of v1 of the new BBC article renderer: an isomorphic React single page application and shared component library.</li></ul>   |                                 |                            |
| Feb 2017 - Oct 2018   | <b>Senior Software Engineer</b> | BBC, Visual Journalism     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruited and trained a global team. Line managed and mentored several developers, allocating projects aligning with their goals.</li><li>• Upgraded legacy tech stack to pure Node/NPM and Webpack (including bespoke plugins). Migrated deployment pipeline to AWS.</li><li>• Volunteered as "Accessibility Champion" and improved standards.</li></ul> |                                 |                            |
| Feb 2016 - Jan 2017   | <b>Web Developer</b>            | BBC, Visual Journalism     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Devised and implemented an abstraction strategy to deliver Visual Journalism content across the BBC apps, web and third-parties.</li><li>• Regularly created multi-lingual, full-stack applications for the web and the BBC apps, covering high profile events to tight deadlines.</li></ul>  |                                 |                            |
| Jul 2015 - Jan 2016   | <b>Test Engineer</b>            | BBC, Visual Journalism     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Led the maintenance of a screenshot testing tool (Wraith). Hand-built a BDD framework in Node. Set up Docker test suites on CI.</li></ul>   |                                 |                            |
| Aug 2014 - Present  | <b>Founder</b>                  | Webdapper Ltd              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Founded my own company whilst at university. To date, I've planned, designed and developed over 10 websites for clients.</li></ul>  |                                 |                            |
| Jul 2013 - Aug 2014   | <b>Trainee Web Developer</b>    | BBC, Visual Journalism     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed the <i>Commonwealth Games</i> feature, which was televised on BBC Breakfast. I also took the initiative to translate it to Welsh.</li><li>• Templated the 'datapic' format. Blog: <a href="http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz">http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz</a></li></ul>   |                                 |                            |

## 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