

# Alicia Sykes

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I'm a builder at heart. I care about clean, simple software that's fast, secure, accessible—and actually helps people. Over the years, I've led teams, shipped products used by millions, modernised ageing systems, and helped engineers grow. I believe in open source, protecting user privacy, and leaving things better than I found them. I like working with kind, curious people who want to do great work and have a little fun along the way.

## Experience

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### loveholidays

STAFF SOFTWARE ENGINEER

November 2024 – Present

- Led accessibility strategy ahead of the European Accessibility Act by building *lova11y*, a site-wide scanning tool that logs and categorises violations into BigQuery and Looker, enabling measurable progress across teams.
- Contributed to core web infrastructure (Kubernetes, Terraform), worked closely with vendors like Fastly and DataDome, and delivered improvements in site performance and reliability.
- As learning champion, I created resources and pathways to foster continuous learning, mentoring, and upskilling across the engineering org.

### AND Digital

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

August 2022 – October 2024

- Led architecture and development for a high-scale white-labelled mobile app for Frasers Group, achieving 1M+ downloads and a 4.8/5 rating on app stores (React Native).
- Delivered strategic technical leadership across multiple client projects including Lloyds Bank and International SOS, driving large-scale migrations to modern, maintainable stacks.
- Mentored and upskilled a team of 8–12 engineers through structured mini-projects, paired programming, and technical coaching, fostering a high-growth culture.
- Established and hosted a bi-weekly engineering guild attended by 40+ engineers, sharing best practices in performance, accessibility, testing, and architecture.
- Acted as a bridge between delivery and engineering excellence, ensuring long-term code quality and platform resilience without compromising speed.

### Galaxy

VP OF FRONTEND ENGINEERING

June 2020 – May 2022

- Directed frontend engineering for Galaxy's flagship OTC trading platform, enabling over \$1B in trading volume with enterprise-grade performance and reliability.
- Architected and led a full-stack modernization of legacy codebases, improving app load times by 50% and significantly reducing tech debt.
- Oversaw and scaled frontend engineering strategy, standards, and execution across multiple teams, including hiring, mentoring, and tech governance.
- Partnered closely with product, design, and backend leadership to deliver high-quality features at speed, with a strong focus on user experience and stability.
- Advocated for open standards, accessibility, and performance as core pillars of engineering success.

### Freelance

CONTRACT SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD

January 2018 – June 2020

- Acted as engineering lead on high-impact React Native projects including Shell Recharge, driving delivery from design to deployment across platforms.
- Built a performant, scalable component library from scratch for a UK fintech startup, establishing strong frontend architecture and design consistency.
- Delivered a full-stack IoT dashboard for Machine Max, visualizing real-time CO2 and idling metrics from edge devices (Raspberry Pi + cloud stack).
- Consistently embedded in client teams as a trusted lead, providing architecture reviews, CI/CD pipeline improvements, and technical mentorship.

## Accenture

DEVELOPER

May 2014 – January 2019

- Took lead on the 3D/AR work for the B&Q bathroom planner (Angular, A-Frame)
- Lead a team of apprentices on the Accenture UKI Innovation Programme (Google Glass, React, D3.js)
- Ran sessions on coding best practices, testing and observability for engineers across the business
- Headed up the pair programming initiative within Accenture Digital and their clients
- Also supported with the roll-out of Universal Credit (Java), Boots NHS Prescriptions integration (Node.js), E.ON Next Smart Meter portal (React) and the Post Office Kiosk Terminal

## Education

### Oxford Brookes

BSC IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Grade: 1st Class Honors. Winner of Best Final Year Project Prize. President of Computing Society.

## Skills

<b>Frontend</b>	React, Svelte, TypeScript
<b>Backend</b>	Go, Rust, Node.js, Python, Java, PHP
<b>Mobile</b>	Kotlin, Swift, React Native, Flutter
<b>DevOps</b>	Ansible, Kubernetes, Terraform
<b>Obs/Mon</b>	Prometheus, ELK stack, OpenTelemetry, Grafana
<b>CI/CD</b>	Argo CD, GitHub Actions
<b>Cloud</b>	Vercel, Netlify, GCP, Azure
<b>Databases</b>	PostgreSQL, SQLite, Redis, MySQL, MongoDB

## Stats

Top 100 GitHub developer worldwide (70k+ stars) %

10M+ Docker pulls for my open-source projects %

10+ global hackathon wins, demonstrating rapid innovation %

1M+ lines of code authored, maintainer of 100+ repos, powering 1M+ annual unique users %

10k+ subscribers on DEV.to blog, and 5k+ followers on X, GitHub, LinkedIn %

Top 1% contributor on StackOverflow %

## Awards






**Open UK Honours List (2025)** - Recognised for outstanding contributions to the tech and open-source sector %

**GitHub Accelerator Alumni** - Selected among 10 developers (Microsoft M12 partnership) to launch AI-security tooling %

**Open UK Honours List (2024)** - Honoured for leadership and impact in open-source communities %

**Best Comp Sci Project** - Awarded by Oxford British Computer Society %

## Projects

<b>Dashy</b> - The self-hosted startpage for servers %	 lissy93/dashy
<b>Web-Check</b> - OSINT website scanner %	 lissy93/web-check
<b>AdGuardian</b> - CLI DNS and traffic monitoring in the terminal %	 lissy93/AdGuardian-Term
<b>Digital Defense</b> - Comprehensive personal security assessment tool %	 lissy93/personal-security-checklist
<b>Domain Locker</b> - All-in-one domain management and security platform %	 lissy93/domain-locker