

James Bolton - Junior Software Engineer

copse2209@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/j-bolton](https://www.linkedin.com/in/j-bolton) | github.com/JamesPBolton | Fleet, Hampshire

After an exciting career in Public Relations my ambition is to become a software engineer. PR led me to the heart of companies such as Volkswagen and Renault, where I developed and implemented creative communication strategies that involved taking journalists to the biggest motor shows in the world and to car launches across Europe. One of the things I saw up close was the dramatic expansion of the IT capabilities of those companies. That fed into my interest in technology and I decided to act on that by completing a course at General Assembly. I'm aiming to bring together my experience in communications and my love of technology.

Skills

Software Engineering: Comfortable: HTML, CSS, Webpack, NPM, MongoDB, Git, GitHub, Heroku, VSCode, APIs, Insomnia, TablePlus. **Beginner:** JavaScript, React, Express, Node.js, Flask, PostgreSQL, InDesign, REST. **Currently learning:** Python, SQL.

Business skills: Writing (including press releases and business websites), meeting deadlines, internal communications, negotiation, marketing, cross-department goal-setting and collaboration, event organisation and support, social media impact, marketing, campaign review.

Experience

Software Engineering Immersive, General Assembly, London, Sep-Dec 2020

The SEI course ran for three months and was a deep dive into software engineering. I learnt the core skills to build full-stack web applications, including computer science fundamentals, collaboration tools, and the programming languages modern employers demand. The final seven weeks were used to learn React and then Python.

Project 4: Poppins

We did four projects in the course. For the final one I was part of a team of three. We built a full-stack application using **Python** and a **Flask REST Framework**, that served our data from a **Postgres** database. The website was focused on helping parents choose suitable books for their children (hence the name!). I built the functionality for the books pages, which means making sure the backend for the books worked (the REST API) and ensuring the list of books, the individual book pages, and the comments displayed properly on the frontend. **App:** [here](#). **Github link:** [here](#).

Project 3: GreenWorld

We used **Mongo**, **Express**, **React** and **Node** to put together a fully functioning app that we deployed via **MongoDB** and **Heroku**. The app uses seeded data and an external **API** to look for environmentally friendly businesses located near to the user. I worked on sourcing an API and then incorporating its information into the app, ensuring that it was searchable and connected to the

frontend. I looked after the page that listed all of the locations and the page that displayed the full information about specific locations. Four of us worked on the app for seven days, and we then presented the completed app. **App:** [here](#). **Github link:** [here](#).

Project 2: Bitcoin Information

Two of us built a **React** app that used **APIs** to give the user information about the price of Bitcoin. Our first challenge was to see what APIs were available, and which of them would form the basis of a good project. I focused on writing the code to get the data from the APIs, and I used **Insomnia** to finalise that process. We then wrote the frontend, and only once everything was working as intended did we focus on the styling of the app. **App:** [here](#). **Github link:** [here](#).

Project 1: Snake Game

This game was built with **JavaScript** and is modelled on the famous game in Nokia mobile phones. I had five days to create it. A real challenge was to ensure the snake moved around the screen properly, with the head moving first and the body following. I figured out how to do this and was happy with the final result. **App:** [here](#). **Github link:** [here](#).

Previous Experience

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Media Officer Oct '19 - Aug '20

- Responsible for the communications aspect of the government's work in the automotive, aerospace and business sectors. I prioritised and handled high-profile and confidential issues.
- Summarised and provided advice to policy officials, special advisors, and the Secretary of State.
- Used my writing and editing skills to draft accurate and swift rebuttals to inaccurate stories.

Renault (UK): Product & Corporate Communications Manager Aug '18 - Mar '19

- Ensured the PR and marketing functions were aligned, so we could establish objectives and define messages to reposition the Renault brand in the UK.
- Carefully developed and executed a strategy that grew awareness of Renault's models across all media types, including social media and written press.

Volkswagen (UK): Press Officer Mar '16 - Aug '18

- Produced a constant flow of newsworthy press releases. I represented Volkswagen passenger cars at international and UK press launches, industry events, and motor shows.
- Provided reactive comment and answers to press enquiries. I produced and maintained the image library, online and internally, and I managed related suppliers and budgets.

Education

2010-11 **Masters in International Political Economy at Manchester University**

2002-05 **BSc (Hons) Business Studies, Class 2:1 at Cardiff University**

Interests

I enjoy running, although the coronavirus has limited the events I've entered recently. I usually do everything from Park Runs to marathons. I also enjoy watching motorsport.