

Technical Lead - Digital Publishing

You'll lead the technical delivery of our in-house development teams in the Digital Publishing division at the Office for National Statistics. You'll work closely with our software engineers to set the technical direction of our digital products, providing advice and guidance to help our development teams deliver high quality solutions to meet the needs of our internal and external users.

As a member of the senior management team, you'll collaborate with our service owner, product owners, delivery managers, engineering manager and others, ensuring we have a clear vision for the future of digital publishing, a roadmap to work towards it, and the capability to successfully deliver it.

You'll have a background in software development, with experience of backend, frontend and platform engineering, and will thrive in an open, autonomous, and user-centred agile environment.

As a member of the Digital Publishing team, you'll share responsibility for:

- The ONS website – <https://www.ons.gov.uk>
- Our API - <https://api.ons.gov.uk>
- Our developer site – <https://developer.ons.gov.uk>
- Our performance dashboard – <https://performance.ons.gov.uk>
- Florence (our CMS) – <https://github.com/ONSdigital/florence>

If you'd like to discuss this role in more detail, you can contact us at digital.publishing@ons.gov.uk.

Main responsibilities

- Work with software engineers to design, develop and support a collection of internal and external digital web and API services for the publication of statistics
- Work with the engineering manager, ensuring we have the skills and capability we need to deliver our digital services

- Deliver digital services in line with the Government Digital Service Standard, ensuring we put the the needs of our users first
- Have ownership of and accountability for the performance, stability, resilience and availability of our digital services
- Inform the selection of technology choices used in the publication of statistics, making use of open source solutions where appropriate
- Own the infrastructure, systems and data architectures which underpin our publishing platform, ensuring it remains fit for purpose and cost effective
- Work with software engineers and others in our product development teams to continually improve our development workflow and tooling

This role is not expected to have line management responsibilities, although this may not be possible in all circumstances. Please contact us at digital.publishing@ons.gov.uk if you'd like to discuss this in more detail.

Things you might be working on in a typical day

- Leading and facilitating technical discussions with software engineers and others, ensuring system and service designs align with our technical strategy, are cost-effective, and meet the needs of our users
- Identifying security risks and technical debt which affect the products we build, working with the service owner, product owners, and product teams to prioritise, design and implement improvements
- Working with the engineering manager to help guide the professional development of software engineers, ensuring their skills are relevant, up to date, transferrable and in line with industry standards and expectations

What we'll do for you

- Ensure you have the authority and autonomy to define the technical strategy for Digital Publishing and make appropriate technology choices
- Support your personal and professional development, making sure you have access to training, conferences, accreditation and qualifications

Skills and experience

These are the skills and experiences that might be suitable for this role. An interest in solving the problems we face is much more important than having experience in everything listed.

- experience of coaching and mentoring software engineers on technical aspects of their role, including pair programming and code reviews
- significant experience of at least one industry standard programming language, ideally Go, Java or Javascript
- experience of frontend, backend, infrastructure/platform engineering and system administration in a distributed microservices cloud-hosted environment
- experience of designing and implementing horizontally scalable distributed architectures, minimising or eliminating single points of failure
- experience of data storage and queueing systems, ideally PostgreSQL, MongoDB and Kafka, and an awareness of graph database technologies
- experience of designing, building and maintaining public HTTP JSON APIs
- experience of technologies used for web applications, e.g. HTTPS, JSON, CDNs, and use of Unix-like operating systems, e.g. Linux and/or Mac OS
- experience of modern frontend development techniques, including cross-browser/cross-device compatibility, accessibility, responsive design, progressive enhancement and semantic markup
- a detailed understanding of data and web security including encryption, standards compliance, OWASP and common attack vectors
- strong written and verbal communication skills, with an ability to communicate technical concepts to a non-technical audience

Why you should apply

- You enjoy helping engineers design and build digital services using modern industry standard technologies such as Go, Java, React and AWS
- You want to improve the lives of millions through the effective and timely publication of official statistics which inform public debate
- You want to modernise the publication of statistical data in the UK, and be part of publishing the results of Census 2021
- You share an interest in making complex statistical datasets easily available and consumable by the widest possible audience including citizens, government, ministers, researchers, financial institutions, media and fact-checkers

