

PAUL BERRY-BRIGGS

Lead Architect | Strategic Technology Leader

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Manchester, UK (Remote/Hybrid)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A strategic Architect operating at the **intersection of product, engineering, and senior stakeholders**. I specialize in building autonomous engineering functions and navigating the complexities of high-scale environments. I pair a deep passion for technical excellence with a pragmatic, commercial mindset—translating high-level business objectives into robust, scalable technical realities.

LEADERSHIP & STRATEGIC PHILOSOPHY

- **The "Unblocker" Mindset:** I view leadership as a service to the engineering team. My role is to identify and remove friction—whether that is technical debt, vague product requirements, or organizational silos—allowing high-performing engineers to maintain "flow state."
- **Managing Managers & Scalable Culture:** I specialize in building autonomous "squad" structures. Rather than micromanaging technical decisions, I define the *architectural guardrails* and *cultural values* that empower leads to make decisions independently.
- **The Translation Layer:** I act as a bidirectional filter. I translate high-level business goals into actionable technical strategy for engineers, and I translate complex technical risks into commercial risk-mitigation arguments for the board.
- **Pragmatic Excellence:** I advocate for "Engineering ROI." I believe in building systems that are robust enough to scale but lean enough to deliver immediate business value. I lead by setting the standard that "done" is better than "perfect," provided "done" is built on a foundation of quality.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BBC STUDIOS | Lead Architect 04/22 – Present

- **Strategic Oversight:** Directing the technology portfolio for the Studios product group (including bbc.com, the mobile app, and global brands like Top Gear and Bluey).
- **Product Innovation:** Served as Tech Lead for the international subscription project, successfully launching the BBC's first global subscription offering on time and within budget.
- **Cultural Blueprint:** Implemented a new "squad" culture for the subscription project based on self-dependence and autonomy, which has now become a blueprint for future BBC Studios projects.
- **Architectural Credibility:** Defined and deployed the end to end architecture for the flagship BBC.com relaunch

GAZPROM ENERGY | Head of Platforms 05/21 – 04/22

- **Governance & Growth:** Provided strategic oversight for software development and QA teams (30+ heads), transitioning the department toward a mature, autonomous leadership model.
- **Digital Transformation:** Led the definition of future-state architecture as part of a major organizational transformation project, contributing to the wider corporate data strategy.
- **Managing Managers:** Oversaw a tiered leadership structure, ensuring that individual Engineering Leads are aligned with the global architectural vision while maintaining team autonomy.

GAZPROM ENERGY | Lead Solutions Architect 04/20 – 05/21

- **Enterprise Alignment:** Acted as the sole architect for the 'retail' business unit, ensuring that all technology solutions were strictly aligned with commercial objectives using formal architectural patterns.

FREEWAY INSURANCE UK | Head of Technology 02/19 – 03/20

- **Turnaround Leadership:** Engineered a cultural turnaround of a demotivated department by identifying systemic blockers in the CI/CD pipeline and closing communication gaps between product and tech teams.

PRETTYLITTLETHING | Head of IT / Development 12/13 – 06/16

- **Hyper-Growth Scaling:** As the first technical hire, I scaled the platform from £15k/day to £500k/day revenue.
- **Commercial Architecture:** Utilized Redis caching and AJAX to increase performance by 10x, enabling massive traffic spikes with zero additional hardware overhead.

TECHNICAL TOOLBELT

While my focus is now on strategy and leadership, my credibility is built on a deep "hands-on" engineering history:

- **Leadership:** Agile Transformation, Team Building, Tech Strategy & Tactical Roadmaps.
- **Architecture:** System Architecture, Microservices, ESB Implementation, Containerisation
- **Cloud & DevOps:** Linux Infrastructure, Kubernetes, Docker, AWS, CI/CD Culture.
- **Engineering Roots:** PHP, Java, .NET, JS, TS, Magento, OO Design.

EDUCATION & PERSONAL

- **BSc Computer Science:** University of Manchester (1998–2001)
 - **Continuous Learning:** Active explorer of AI workflows, PCB design, and 3D printing.
 - **Interests:** Beyond technology, I am a dedicated weightlifter and enjoy CAD/CNC engineering projects.
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