Anna Shipman
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Software developer with 9 years' professional experience. Currently leading a project to automate cloud provisioning.

On Infrastructure & Tools team using Ruby, Python, Perl, Puppet and other web technologies. Previous experience includes 5 years' Java and the JEE stack. Keen to continue to take on more technical and leadership responsibility.

Current Position

Developer at the Government Digital Service (April 2012 – date)
A team within the Cabinet Office, leading the digital transformation of government

Current role:
- Leading a team of web operations engineers and developers, building automated tools for cloud provisioning, using Ruby and Fog to interact with VMware vCloud Director
- Mentoring and educating colleagues on development best practices
- Line managing and mentoring four developers from other teams

Previous roles include:
- Web operations on the Infrastructure & Tools team, supporting GOV.UK, the single domain for government. Making improvements and dealing with incidents on a platform that has 1.5 million visitors per day.
  Tasks included using Puppet to manage configuration, continuous integration, managing and maintaining the network, e.g. DNS management and CDN migration.
- Creating a framework to redirect 80,000 URLs from Directgov and BusinessLink to the correct place on the new GOV.UK site when it launched. Read more about how we achieved this in my GDS blog post:
  http://digital.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/2012/12/10/testing-the-redirections/
- Working on the platform that enables publishing of content to GOV.UK.

Interests & Achievements Outside Work

- Co-Programme Chair for SPA Conference, 2013 and 2014.
  Conference on all aspects of Software Practice Advancement. Putting together an excellent programme of programming and non-programming sessions
- Speak at conferences, including:
  - "Craftsman Softwareship", an ignite talk at Strata/Velocity in November 2013
  - "Growing Fast Within Government" the keynote at XPDay 2012
  - "Data Visualisations in JavaScript", a workshop at SPA 2012
- Participated in a Dev Fort, where we created BeHabitual.com, an app for forming habits, which I currently maintain
- Blog at www.annashipman.co.uk/jfdi.html and on the GDS technology blog
- Volunteer for IT Can Help, a charity offering free computer support to disabled people

Main Technical Skills

Current: Ruby, Perl, Python, Puppet, HTTP, Shell scripting, MongoDB

Previous: Java, JavaScript, JQuery, SQL, Scala

Influential Books

The following excellent books have most shaped my thinking on software development:

Clean Code by Robert C Martin

Don't Make Me Think by Steve Krug

Working Effectively With Legacy Code by Michael C Feathers

The Mythical Man Month by Frederick P Brooks

Release It! By Michael T. Nygard

Career Development

Java Designer/Developer at Corelogic Ltd (March 2008 – March 2012)
SME producing one of the main case-management systems for social services

Roles included:
- Redesigning and rewriting one of the key components of the application for consistency, increased functionality and improved user experience
- Developing a prototype for the next version of the application, exploring and utilising tools new to the company to move towards a more web-based application
- Production Support

Application Developer at Atos Origin (November 2005 – February 2008)
International IT services company with revenues of over € 8 billion and 78,000 staff

Roles included:
- Production Support for a multi-million pound project for Defra
- Process improvement for an internal department
- Team Leading and Project Office for a multi-million pound project for VOSA

Prior to my Masters in IT I worked mainly in publishing, initially at a company that publishes books for dyslexic and other reluctant readers (**Barrington Stoke, September 2001 – December 2002, Graduate Trainee**). Among other responsibilities I managed the production of eight novels from commission to production. It was here my interest in IT originated, and I taught myself MS Access in order to develop a database to manage their complex consultancy system.

I continued my interest in IT in my next role for a charity (**Bridges Project, July 2003 – October 2004, Finance and Publicity Administrator**) where I worked with external IT contractors to develop internal systems as well as managing production of all publicity materials, and day-to-day finance.

I also worked freelance alongside these jobs from **August 2001 – October 2005** doing proofreading, copy-editing and book reviews as well as voluntary advocacy work at The State Hospital, Carstairs – Scotland's only maximum-security hospital.

Education & Qualifications

Heriot-Watt University MSc IT (Software Systems) with Distinction

Edinburgh University MA honours degree Mental Philosophy. Class: 2.1