

Anna Shipman

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Focused, strategic and highly skilled technology leader.

Proven track record of **driving technical strategy**, **setting standards**, and **building and leading large technology teams** that deliver strategic business goals. **Excellent communicator**, able to distill complex issues into clear objectives and explain technical issues to non-technical audiences. **Deep understanding of technology** with particular expertise in infrastructure, backend development and open source. Internationally respected **speaker and writer**. I get things done.

Current employment

Technical Director for Customer Products *Financial Times (April 2018 – date)*

Technical director of the award-winning FT.com website and the FT iPhone and Android apps.

I work with the Product Director and Delivery Director to lead a team of 100+ people. My specific responsibilities are:

- Setting technical strategic direction for the website and apps
- Responsible for the operational reliability and security
- Developing and evolving the broader technology strategy for the Financial Times, in collaboration with the rest of the FT's technical leadership team
- Managing a budget of ~£12m including all technical contracts and staff costs
- Leading and line managing a team of 60+ engineers
- Making sure we have the appropriate technology to retain our 1 million+ subscribers and increase our subscriber base
- Ensuring successful delivery, a high quality product and continuous improvement by working effectively with product and delivery management
- Recruiting strong technical talent
- Effective stakeholder management, supporting different business areas: B2C, B2B, Ads, Editorial and Customer Research, to ensure our products are the best they can be

Speaking

I am regularly invited to speak at conferences around the world. Recent talks include:

- **The good, the bad and the tech strategy** *LeadDev Together, 15th Feb 2022*
Understanding what makes a good strategy and a good technical strategy
- **Creating, defining and refining an effective tech strategy** *LeadDev Live, 21st Jan 2021*
Facilitating a panel of other technology leaders on effective tech strategy
- **How Durable Teams Take You Further, Faster** (Keynote) *CTO Craft Conf, 2nd Dec 2020*
Why and how we moved the Customer Products team to durable teams

Writing

I have written about DevOps at GDS for the book *Build Quality In*. 70% of royalties from this book go to Code Club. I frequently write both for my personal blog and for employers'.

My blog can be found at <https://www.annashipman.co.uk/jfdi.html>; I write about tech, leadership, and technical leadership.

Professional training

Achieved a pass in the exams for both Finance for non-Finance Directors (in 2020) and Strategy for Directors (in 2022); parts of the IoD Certificate in Company Direction, Level 9 (SCQF).

Technical review

I was the technical reviewer for the forthcoming O'Reilly book *Software Architecture Metrics*.

Previous employment

Open Source Lead *Government Digital Service (October 2016 – March 2018)*

Setting and delivering strategy on open source for the whole of the UK government.

- **Identifying highest impact work** across government to make the UK a world leader in open source
- **Influencing senior leaders** in GDS and across government to support delivery of strategy through **persuasion, peer support and sharing vision**
- Driving opening of government code using a range of techniques; successes include high profile government services such as GOV.UK Verify, GOV.UK Pay and Register to Vote, **serving a total of 30 million users**

Technical architect *Government Digital Service (September 2014 – October 2016)*

I led delivery of the first phase of a PaaS for Government, an infrastructure platform to host digital services across the entire UK government, including **identifying strategic criteria** for the solution, leading the **technical evaluation** of capabilities of various PaaS solutions, and being a **senior technical line manager**, reporting to the CTO, **responsible for an organisation of 30 people**, **leading on developer culture, career paths and recruitment**.

Senior developer *Government Digital Service (April 2012 – September 2014)*

Led development of GDS's first Open Source project, vCloud Tools, now in use across government and industry. Tech lead for discovery phase of rewrite of central government's licence application service. Performed web operations on the Infrastructure & Tools team, supporting GOV.UK.

Java designer/developer *Corelogic Ltd (March 2008 – March 2012)*

Identified an issue with one of key components, and redesigned and rewrote it, increasing functionality and improving user experience. Developed a prototype for the next version of the application.

Application developer *Atos Origin (November 2005 – February 2008)*

Projects included team leading for a multi-million pound project for VOSA and production support for a multi-million pound project for Defra.

Previous career

Prior to technology I had a career in publishing, including children's books and at a charity. This experience allows me to better understand the needs of those less familiar with computers.

Education

MSc IT (Software Systems): Distinction: Heriot-Watt University
MA honours degree Mental Philosophy. Class: 2.1: University of Edinburgh

Other interests

I have participated in three /dev/forts, week-long development working holidays. I have volunteered for IT Can Help, a charity offering free computer support to disabled people.