Anna Shipman
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Technical architect and software developer with over 10 years' professional experience. Leader, international speaker and writer. Particular interest in making things open, making things simple and making things available to everyone.

Technical architect at Government Digital Service
(April 2012 – date, as a technical architect since September 2014)
A team within the Cabinet Office, leading the digital transformation of government

In my most recent role I led the Government PaaS team:

- analysed a wide range of sometimes conflicting user needs to set a clear vision and direction
- contributed to, and supported the team in contributing to, Open Source projects including extensive engagement with Tsuru
- generated publicity for the project and for GDS by keynoting Velocity EU, as well as several talks at other conferences
- created a cross-government hosting and infrastructure community to share knowledge and learn from each other
- investigated and evaluated multiple technologies including Open Source and proprietary options, and selected the technology for the PaaS, which went into private Beta July 2016
- wrote about the decision-making process on the GDS blog in several posts, some of which are still the most frequently viewed posts on the blog
- built close ties with 18F and Australia DTO who are also using Cloud Foundry, as well as within industry to Tsuru, Deis, Kubernetes, Docker and Cloud Foundry
- built an effective, productive 15-person team including recruitment, setting in place working practices, handling poor performance and building a strong, supportive culture

Previous projects as technical architect at GDS include being TA on the GOV.UK website, responsible for the technical oversight of six product teams and an infrastructure team.

Alongside these roles I have led on career development and developer culture work, and performed line management, mentoring and reverse mentoring.

As a **senior developer** at the Government Digital Service (April 2012 – September 2014)

- led development of GDS's only Open Source project, vCloud Tools, now in use by government departments and industry. Packaged it for reuse and publicised it, by speaking extensively and internationally and blogging. Set out how to move code from "Coded in the open" to Open Source
- 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

Speaking

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

Operations: A developer's guide, FFConf, Brighton, 6th November 2015
A clear introduction to web operations to help developers understand the context and be better

A PaaS for Government, Keynote at VelocityEU, Amsterdam, 29th October 2015
Why we want to build a Platform as a Service and how we are going about it

Delivering GOV.UK: DevOps for the nation, QCon, London, 4th March 2015
How DevOps drives delivery of the GOV.UK website, allows fast iteration and how we make it work

Writing

I am an excellent communicator and published author.

Most recently, I have written a chapter about DevOps at GDS for the book Build Quality In. 70% of royalties from this book go to Code Club.

I have written several posts on the GDS technology blog, the GDS blog and the Government as a Platform blog, and I also write on my own blog.

Conferences

I serve on several conference programme committees. In 2015-16 I have been on the committees for O'Reilly Software Architecture 2016, Velocity EU 2016 and Continuous Lifecycle London 2016. I manage the website for SPA (Software Practice Advancement) conference.

Other interests

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

Previous employment in technology

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

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

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.

Previous career

Prior to working in IT I had a career in publishing, including editorial and production at a company that publishes books for dyslexic children, and freelance proofreading and copy-editing. I also worked as a volunteer advocate at 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