Anna Shipman
cv@annashipman.co.uk
@annashipman
www.annashipman.co.uk

Passionate and innovative technology leader. Internationally respected speaker and writer. Deep understanding of technology, with particular expertise in infrastructure, backend development and open source. Excellent communicator, able to distill complex issues into clear objectives and explain technical issues to non-technical audiences. Proven track record of building and leading technology teams that deliver on strategic business objectives.

Open Source Lead at the Government Digital Service (October 2016 – date)

I lead open source policy, strategy, and delivery for UK central government. The role involves:

- driving and delivering the strategic direction on open source for the UK government
- setting vision and priority activities for the UK government to meet its objectives of being a world leader in open source
- leading implementation of a project to investigate reuse of open government code to drive greater value for UK taxpayers
- successes to date include open sourcing code for high profile government services, including GOV.UK Verify, GOV.UK Pay and Register to Vote, serving a total of 20 million end users
- strategically influencing senior stakeholders through persuasion, peer support and guidance
- leading initiative to embed an open source operational culture across government and industry, by giving talks at high-profile conferences and blogging
- establishing a cross-government open source community with around 100 active members in order to cross-pollinate ideas and problem-solving approaches
- engaging with senior officials and business leaders, explaining the benefits of open code to non-technical leaders
- liaising internationally on behalf of the UK government to share best practice with other national governments including USA, Canada, Australia, France and the Czech Republic

Technical architect at Government Digital Service (September 2014 – date)

I led delivery of the first phase of a PaaS for Government, an infrastructure platform to host digital services across the entire UK government:

- Led the technical evaluation of capabilities of various PaaS solutions, including feature comparison and gap analysis for use by a diverse set of services across government
- Identified the strategic criteria for a PaaS for the UK government to make the selection
- Built 15-person team of web operations engineers, including recruitment, setting clear direction, handling poor performance and building a strong, supportive culture
- Shared our vision and learnings by speaking at conferences, including keynoting VelocityEU, and sharing the decision-making process on the GDS blog
- Contributed to, and supported the team in contributing to, Open Source projects
- Championed best practice across GDS

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 line managed and mentored in the tech community:

- Senior in technical line management community, leading on line management process, developer culture and diversity initiatives
- Line management responsibility for between 4 and 15 staff at a time, encouraging them to take on line management themselves and developing them
- Built the first career path for developers and other technologists at GDS (written up here: https://gdstechnology.blog.gov.uk/2015/07/24/a-career-path-for-technologists-at-gds/)
- Led on recruitment including chairing panels, improving process and promoting GDS

Boards

Member of the Industrial Liaison Board, Department of Computing at Imperial College London, advising the Department on strategic issues and concerns relating to industry.

Speaking

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

- **A PaaS for Government**, Keynote at VelocityEU, Amsterdam, 29th October 2015
  Why the government is building a PaaS and how we are going about it

- **Coding in the open in government**, Turing Fest, Edinburgh, 3rd August 2017
  The benefits of coding in the open for government and industry

- **Operations: A developer's guide**, FFConf, Brighton, 6th November 2015
  A clear introduction to web operations to help developers improve their skills

Writing

I am an excellent communicator and published author. I have written several posts on the GDS blogs and also regularly update my own blog. I have written about DevOps at GDS for the book *Build Quality In*. 70% of royalties from this book go to Code Club.

Conferences

I lead the committee and manage the website for SPA (Software Practice Advancement) conference. I am also involved in other conferences: in 2015-16 I was on the committees for O'Reilly Software Architecture 2016, Velocity EU 2016 and Continuous Lifecycle London 2016.

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

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

Various projects including redesigning and rewriting one of the key components of the application for consistency, increased functionality and improved user experience, and developing a prototype for the next version of the application, as well as spending several months on 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

Worked on various projects including production support for a multi-million pound project for Defra and team leading for a multi-million pound project for VOSA.

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 & qualifications

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