

# Anna Shipman

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Focused, strategic and highly skilled technology leader interested in technical director roles.

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.

## Head of Open Source *Government Digital Service (October 2016 – date)*

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, from hands-on support with code through to business cases for non-technical senior stakeholders; 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**
- **Briefing ministers, senior officials and business leaders** on the benefits of open code
- **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
- **Setting standards and producing guidance** to inform good decision-making for teams across government
- Working with departments to **create or improve policies** on open source
- Driving change by **giving conference talks, writing blog posts** and visiting government departments
- **Establishing a cross-government open source community** with roughly 100 active members in order to cross-pollinate ideas and problem-solving approaches
- **Leading work to promote reuse** of open government code to drive value for UK taxpayers
- **Contributing to open source** and supporting others to do so

## Technical architect *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
- **Championed best practice** across GDS

Prior to this I was technical architect on the GOV.UK website, **responsible for the technical oversight of six product teams** and an infrastructure team.

Alongside these roles I line manage and mentor in the tech community:

- **Senior technical line manager**, reporting to the CTO, **responsible for an organisation of 30 people**
- **Leading on developer culture**, diversity initiatives and **recruitment**
- **Built the career path** for developers and other technologists at 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) *VelocityEU, Amsterdam, 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017*  
The benefits of coding in the open for government and industry
- **Operations: A developer's guide** *FFConf, Brighton, 6<sup>th</sup> 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. I have volunteered for IT Can Help, a charity offering free computer support to disabled people.

## Previous employment in technology

**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 & qualifications

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