Anna Shipman
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Technical Architect and software developer with 10 years' professional experience. Currently technical architect of the GOV.UK website.

Current Position

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

Current responsibilities:
- Technical architect on the GOV.UK website, responsible for the technical oversight of six product teams and an infrastructure team
- Line managing and mentoring ten developers and web operations engineers (four direct reports)
- Leading on career development and developer culture work

Previous responsibilities at GDS (as senior developer, April 2012 – September 2014):
- Leading a team building automated tools for cloud provisioning, using Ruby and fog to interact with VMware's vCloud Director (https://github.com/gds-operations/vcloud-tools)
- Technical lead for discovery phase of project to rewrite central government's licence application service
- 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.
- Working on the platform that enables publishing of content to GOV.UK.

Conference talks

- "Infrastructure as code in government", a talk at Velocity New York, September 2014
- "Automating Government", a talk at Scotch on the Rocks, June 2014
- "Craftsman Softwareship", an Ignite talk at Strata/Velocity in November 2013
- "Growing Fast Within Government" the keynote at XPDay 2012, also delivered at BCS Edinburgh in May 2013
- "Data Visualisations in JavaScript", a workshop at SPA 2012, also delivered at MiniSPA 2012

Main Technical Skills

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

Previous: Java, JavaScript, JQuery, SQL, Scala

Interests & Achievements Outside Work

- Published author: have written a chapter about DevOps at GDS for the book Build Quality In. 70% of royalties from this book go to Code Club.
- Co-Programme Chair for SPA Conference, 2013 and 2014.
  Conference on all aspects of Software Practice Advancement. Putting together an excellent programme of interactive technical and non-technical sessions
- Web admin for SPA Conference, maintaining and improving a complex PHP/MySQL application that manages submission, feedback and review and programme creation
- Participated in two Dev Forts, where we created BeHabitual.com, an app for forming habits, and Pebblebox, a secure group voting system
- 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

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