Anna Shipman
anna at annashipman dot co dot uk
www.annashipman.co.uk
@annashipman

Software developer with 8 years' professional experience. Currently on Infrastructure & Tools team using Puppet, Ruby, Python, Perl and other web technologies. Previous experience includes 5 years' Java and the JEE stack.

Keen to continue to take on more technical responsibility and ultimately would like to use my technical and leadership skills to mentor a team of developers.

Current Position

Developer at the Government Digital Service (April 2012 – date)
A new team within the Cabinet Office, transforming government digital

Current role:
- Working on the Infrastructure & Tools team: using Puppet to manage configuration, automating provisioning, continuous integration, managing and maintaining the network, e.g. DNS management and CDN migration

Previous roles include:
- Putting the framework in place to redirect users from Directgov and BusinessLink to the correct place on the new GOV.UK site when it launched.
- Read more about how we achieved this in my GDS blog post http://digital.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/2012/12/10/testing-the-redirections/
- Working on the platform that enables publishing of content to GOV.UK.

Interests & Achievements Outside Work

- Co-Programme Chair for SPA Conference, 2013 and 2014.
  Conference on all aspects of Software Practice Advancement. Putting together an excellent programme of programming and non-programming sessions
- Co-delivered the keynote at XPDay 2012: "Growing Fast Within Government". We were invited to give it again at the BCS in Edinburgh in May 2013
- Ran a popular workshop on visualising data at SPA 2012 "Data Visualisations in JavaScript". It received very high feedback and was invited back to MiniSPA 2012
- Blog at www.annashipman.co.uk/jfdi.html
- Volunteer for IT Can Help, a charity offering free computer support to disabled people

Main Technical Skills

Current: Perl, Python, JavaScript, Ruby, MongoDB, Puppet

Previous: Java, JQuery, SQL, Scala

Speaking

I think it's important to share skills and experiences in the industry. Recent talks I have given include "Growing Fast Within Government", the keynote at XPDay 2012, which we repeated at the BCS Edinburgh in May 2013, and "Data Visualisations in JavaScript", a workshop at SPA 2012 which I repeated at MiniSPA 2012 (the six top sessions from SPA). Slides and code are available via www.annashipman.co.uk.

Conferences I've participated in as an attendee in the past two years include XPDay, SPA, ScalaDays, Software Craftsmanship, CitCon and Web Directions @media.

Influential Books

The following excellent books have most shaped my thinking on software development:

Clean Code by Robert C Martin

Don't Make Me Think by Steve Krug

Working Effectively With Legacy Code by Michael C Feathers

The Mythical Man Month by Frederick P Brooks

Joel on Software by Joel Spolsky

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 Natural England (formerly 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 (October 2004 – September 2005).
MSc IT (Software Systems) with Distinction

Edinburgh University (October 1997 – July 2001)
MA honours degree Mental Philosophy. Class: 2.1