

# CHRISTOPHER GROUNDS

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<http://chris-bacon.co.uk>

## 1 SUMMARY

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I am an experienced software engineer who has worked on a range of different domains, problems, and technologies. My main focus throughout my career has been on engineering excellence and best practices – both for software and the teams I have been a part of.

During my time at the BBC and Tracsis, I have encouraged and helped others on my team to write well-tested code through a process of TDD, as well as encouraging good development practices through functional programming design patterns. Moreover, at Tracsis I have promoted and helped my team practice feature-toggle based development, where each new feature is locked behind a feature-toggle to enable a smoother continuous delivery process. I also successfully introduced pair programming to my team at Tracsis, which had not practised pair programming until that point. This helped increase collective ownership and shared knowledge of the code, which greatly reduced risk and cost of new feature development. Through sprint planning meetings I have also encouraged the team to take a more Kanban-based approach to visualise work-in-progress, as well as other best practices, such as committing small and often, to help improve the CI/CD process. I have also spent time improving the CI pipeline at Tracsis – on one occasion improving the speed of the selenium jobs by around 25% - and been a proponent of more automation and a fully fledged CD process.

I am committed to helping the team write software as a harmonised and unified whole as I view software as fundamentally a team enterprise, and I am a strong believer in the value of XP. For me this involves a strong emphasis on pair/mob programming and including all aspects of the (dev and non-dev) team in the software-creating process as early as possible, coupled with expert knowledge of the technologies involved.

I have also given a number of talks in-house, at the BBC and Tracsis, and externally, and I enjoy building serverless applications in my spare time, using services such as AWS Lambda.

## 2 EXPERIENCE

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### **11/2018 - present      Software Engineer, Tracsis**

Software Engineer at Tracsis working on the resource management system of TRACS Enterprise, a high-availability suite of software, responsible for building high-quality and thoroughly-tested software to help train operating companies' processes become more efficient and streamlined.

Throughout my time here I have continuously encouraged and promoted agile best practices such as TDD, pair-programming, kanban-practices, CD, and feature-toggled based development.

*Tools & Techs: Pair programming, TDD, Haskell, AWS, CI/CD, Jenkins, JavaScript, E2E Testing*

### **12/2017 - 11/2018      Junior Software Engineer, BBC**

A member of the Newsround team, working with React and the BBC's proprietary serverless platform to build a high-performing new website for Newsround, transitioning it to a digital future.

Further to the Newsround website, I have built internal tooling to facilitate continuous deployment, championed functional programming and safe code, given talks on Haskell, lead and organised a Haskell study group, and been involved with assessment centres, bringing talent into the BBC.

*Tools & Techs: Node.js/React, Elm, TypeScript, TDD, Pair Programming, CI/CD, Serverless*

### **06/2016 - 12/2017      Web Software Developer, Age Partnership**

A member of the web team, responsible for writing greenfield software and web applications, maintaining legacy code, and responding to operational problems. Also the unit testing project lead responsible for unit testing the codebase.

### 3 EDUCATION

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- 09/2015 - 09/2016      **MA. (Postgraduate) Linguistics with a Specialisation in Syntax**  
**University College London (UCL)**  
Degree Classification: *Distinction*
- 09/2012 - 06/2015      **MA. (Undergraduate) (Hons) Language & Linguistics and Philosophy**  
**University of Aberdeen**  
Degree Classification: *First Class, with Honours*

### 4 OPEN SOURCE

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- [GHC: Fixed GHC.Natural documentation typo](#)
- [Learn You a Haskell companion exercises](#)
- [Vim-one: added Haskell support](#)
- [Intero-neovim: Added functionality to customize Intero window size and position](#)

### 5 PERSONAL PROJECTS (SELECTION; ALL AVAILABLE ON GITHUB)

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- [Haskell random name generator, deployed on Heroku and AWS Lambda](#)
- [Halendar: terminal based calendar \(Haskell\)](#)
- [Htex: HTML-LaTeX compiler \(Haskell\)](#)
- [Multiprocessing TCP portscanner \(Python\)](#)
- [Interactive calculator REPL \(Haskell\)](#)

### 6 PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

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- 18/02/2019, 'Haskell at Tracsis: some lessons', *Manchester Lambda Lounge*: Manchester
- 22/11/2018, 'Pair programming', *Tracsis*: Leeds
- 16/08/2018, 'Using Monoids to build UI', *Manchester Lambda Lounge*: Manchester
- 23/03/2018, 'Haskell: programming purity', *BBC*: MediaCity
- 19/04/2015, 'Is Peter Svenonius' syntactic account of adjective order satisfactory?', *Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (ULAB)*: York St. John University, York