CHRIS ALLMARK

Agilist / Architect / Engineer / Strategist / Technologist   Scrum Certified
Maidenhead UK | chris.allmark@gmail.com | +44(0)7927895816   CSD / CSM / CSP

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

An experienced technology leader, a pragmatic software development manager, a certified agile coach and a full-stack software engineer who has worked across a broad range of business sectors including banking, broadcasting, logistics, manufacturing, publishing, retail, social networking, telecommunications, telematics & utilities.

A passionate advocate of agile & lean software engineering who has worked for several leading brands, including ASOS, Which?, The Economist, The Financial Times, MySpace and Nickelodeon. Currently employed as the Head of Core Systems for giffgaff, transforming their existing monolithic application stack into a microservice-based architecture, deployed on-demand to a cloud-native environment.

A certified scrum developer (CSD), scrum master (CSM) & scrum professional (CSP) that thrives on a challenge and has a broad range of technical skills. Works across the entire software development lifecycle, designing and developing a variety of application architectures, specialising in secure, scalable microservice-based systems.

Currently looking for a challenging position with a forward-thinking organisation as either a hands-on head of product engineering, software development manager or technical lead. Ideally working with cross-functional teams, building distributed Node.js RESTful APIs with React clients using cloud-based continuous deployment.

CORE SKILLS

Databases	Frameworks	Languages	Methods	Queues/Streams	Tools	...
MySQL	Cypress	CSS3/HTML5	Agile	Active MQ	Docker	AWS
Oracle	Hugo	ECMAScript	Kanban	Kafka	Kubernetes	DDD
PostgreSQL	Next.js	Java	Lean	Kinesis	Git	IOT
	React.js	Node.js	Scrum	Rabbit MQ	Jenkins	TDD
	Spring	PHP	XP	Redis	Terraform	
		Typescript				

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Scrum Developer (2014) - Scrum Professional (2011) - Scrum Master (2008)

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│  CURRENT EMPLOYMENT         │
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giffgaff : Scrum Master (2014) -> Agile Governance Lead (2015)-> Technical Governance Lead (2016) -> Head of Product Engineering (2017) -> Head of Core Systems (2020)

Started as a technical **Scrum Master** with the responsibility for managing the delivery of two large software development teams of over forty engineers, split by discipline - a team of back-end Java/Python developers and a team of front-end Javascript/PHP developers both with integrated quality assurance.

After a three-month review of working practices, proposed a reorganisation of the company around lean product engineering teams to the giffgaff leadership team. This business-wide transformation would reinvigorate the agile process and reduce the length of the feedback cycle from members, enabling giffgaff to truly be "the mobile network run by you". In a new role as the **Agile Governance Lead**, managing the organisational change that led to the creation of multiple cross-functional, domain-focused teams, each with a dedicated product owner and scrum master.

The restructuring of teams highlighted the constraints of the existing monolithic application architecture, the lack of automated tests and the reliance on manual quality assurance and operational processes. This resulted in a low release cadence with a high number of failed releases. Transitioning to the role of **Technical Governance Lead** led to the establishment of a new strategic direction for the organisation to achieve continuous delivery through the following initiatives:

* Upgrade to Java 11 and deprecate PHP in favour of React/React Native client apps
* Adopt a microservice architecture with dockerized Spring Boot services
* Rebalance the unit/integration/system test ratio; make everyone a tester
* Adopt trunk-based development with dynamic code control via feature toggles
* Switch to a cloud-native platform and introduce immutable infrastructure
* Use CI/CD build pipelines to deploy-on-demand with a "you build it, you run it" model

As the **Head of Product Engineering** had responsibility for the line management of over seventy software development engineers and the design, development, testing, and deployment of giffgaff software products. Also accountable for best practices, code standards, performance management and recruitment, and serving as the primary contact for product engineering across the business. As **Head of Core Systems** has responsibility for the community, developer experience, help, identity, mobile and payment teams.

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│  KEY ACHIEVEMENTS   │
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* Presented at the Telefónica Developers Conference in Madrid - TEFCon 2015 "Hacking The Future" - and received a speaker award for an 'Agile Cultural Change' talk

* Organised a hackathon for all product engineers to introduce them to Amazon Web Services using Alexa and built a fully functional service for querying member accounts

* Created a behaviours & skills framework and a structured recruitment process together with an automated remote code test publishing application using the GitHub API

* Ran recruitment events at Silicon Milk Roundabout, including the design and construction of the stand and producing a showreel for the event display systems

* Established communities of practice (COPs) and special interest groups (SIGs) to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing between giffgaff technology teams

* Published an agile engineering manifesto that combined agile and extreme programming practices & principles and helped to establish a common technology mindset

* Introduced a 'kaizen' continuous improvement process to help address cross-cutting engineering issues and 'kaizen days' to enable team experimentation and innovation

* Built an application called giffgaff dash using on balena.io to deploy build monitor & observability dashboards to a centrally managed IoT fleet in the giffgaff offices

* Implemented a robust end-to-end testing framework using cypress.io, which provided enhanced tooling and visibility of build failures

* Created a sequence chart generator based on mscgen_js syntax that used method call logs captured using Spring AOP to reverse-engineer process flows from a legacy codebase

* Hosted "The Agile Roundabout" at the giffgaff offices with the topic of Getting Back To Continuous Disruption and presented on the topic of continuous delivery at giffgaff

* Designed, developed, deployed and managed a technology-focused blogging platform at giffgaff.io using Next.js for server-side rendering and the giffgaff.design system

* Constructed a knowledge base intranet site using on Material for MkDocs to manage architectural decision records, request for comment and other team documentation

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│ EMPLOYMENT HISTORY  │
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Company	Role	From	To	Basis
giffgaff	Head of Core Systems	Nov 2017	Now	Perm
giffgaff	Head of Product Engineering	Jun 2014	Oct 2017	Cont
ASOS	Development Manager	Feb 2013	May 2014	Cont
Which?	Agile Project Manager	Apr 2012	Jan 2013	Cont
The Economist	Agile Project Manager	Oct 2011	Mar 2012	Cont
John Wiley & Sons	Iteration Manager	Feb 2011	Sep 2011	Cont
Reed Exhibitions	Head of Online Development	Jul 2010	Dec 2010	Cont
The Economist	Scrum Master	Feb 2010	Jun 2010	Cont
The Financial Times	Scrum Master	Aug 2009	Jan 2010	Cont
The Economist	Agile Project Manager	May 2009	Aug 2009	Cont
MySpace	Development Manager	Jan 2007	Apr 2009	Perm
Dunnhumby	Principle Engineer	Sep 2006	Aug 2007	Perm
Keane	Senior Consultant	Feb 2004	Aug 2006	Perm
Powergen	Analyst/Programmer	Apr 2003	Feb 2004	Cont
Nickelodeon	Lead Developer	Mar 2002	Mar 2003	Cont
Trafficmaster	Lead Developer	Jun 2001	Feb 2002	Cont
GE Information Services	Technical Consultant	Feb 1997	Mar 2000	Cont
TNT Express Worldwide	Analyst/Programmer	Sep 1989	Jan 1997	Perm

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│ OTHER INTERESTS │
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Cycling - Disney Parks & Resorts - Football - Graphic Design - Retro Computing & Gaming

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│ REFERENCES │
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See recommendations on [LinkedIn](#) and additional references are available upon request.