

# CHRISTOPHER GROUNDS

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## 1 SUMMARY

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I am a highly experienced software engineer who has worked on a range of different domains, problems, and technologies. My main focus throughout my career has been on excellence and best practices - both cultural and engineering.

This is evidenced by my previous and current roles, where I have promoted and encouraged well-tested, clean code through a combination of fast-feedback loops, TDD, best practices such as pair programming, and creating a safe working environment. Through this focus, I have been instrumental in shaping and forming positive team culture and engineering best practices, whilst taking lead on green-field projects critical to achieving business and organisational goals

In my current role, I have been instrumental in shaping and forming positive team culture and engineering best practices, whilst taking lead on green-field projects critical to achieving business and organizational goals.

My ambition is to help shape agile teams, to enable them to innovate and move quickly. I believe this is best achieved through building autonomous teams, deeply routed in extreme programming best practices, with emphasis on automation through CI/CD, pair programming involving all relevant disciplines, coupled with expert knowledge of the technologies involved.

I bring extremely strong technical abilities, ranging from cloud, web, mobile, and the full software-engineering stack - from strongly-typed functional programming languages (such as Haskell and TypeScript) to web-standards and design. I have had considerable influence on large-scale production applications and pride myself on the end-result achieved.

All in all, I view software as a team enterprise and I am a believer in the value of the principles of extreme programming. This involves a strong emphasis on pair/mob programming and including all disciplines in the software-creation process as early as possible, coupled with expert knowledge of the technologies involved.

**Core competencies:** React, Node, AWS Serverless stack, Agile best practices and engineering excellence (TDD, CI/CD, XP practices), functional programming

## 2 EXPERIENCE

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### 02/2021 - present      Staff Engineer, AND Digital

As a Staff Engineer I have been working closely with stakeholders and other engineers, bridging the gap between client and AND, ensuring successful delivery and execution of client requirements. I am completely focused on delivery user value and helping organisations accelerate their digital ambitions.

Over my time at AND I have helped lead three projects to successfully meet deliverables and deliver value. I've worked closely with client stakeholders, AND delivery leads, and other developers to ensure work is completed as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Off client, I have contributed to the culture of the developer community, mentored other developers (formally and through more ad-hoc relationships), and acted as a positive senior role model.

I have worn many hats at AND, showing flexibility and pragmatism, with a focus on enabling each team to deliver to the best of their abilities, all whilst being pivotal in helping develop the culture and best practices across the whole of the Jemison AND club. I have focused on engineering and agile best practices and see my self as a cross-cutting generalist who helps organisations and teams deliver value at pace.

My roles:

- The Very Group - Staff Software Engineer
- Princes' Trust - Senior Software Engineer

- Internal Project - Lead Software Engineer
- Boohoo - Led workshops

On my current client engagement at The Very Group I have helped lead 2 teams to the successful delivery of 2 phases of work. I have helped design and implement an **AWS event-driven, serverless** architecture, that serves as a piece of critical infrastructure that consumes and produces financial events. This work has allowed The Very Group to migrate from a previous service provider, allowing the business to offer better services to customers. I also was instrumental in designing and implementing the **automation test strategy (E2E and integration tests)**, have **mentored** junior developers, and practiced and preached **test-driven design** and **continuous integration**. I have also been seconded to help other teams improve **performance and resilience** of their AWS infrastructure and have contributed to the Very **React** frontend consuming our serverless services.

Some feedback I've received:

A brilliant team player, coaching associates, going the extra mile, escalating appropriately with empathy, diplomatic. & an all round great guy

A reliable team player who I can trust to solve problems with minimal fuss. Excellent communicator, & know Chris will get the best possible outcome

mob programming sessions was great. It was easy to discuss different implementation techniques [with Chris]

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

## **02/2021 - present          Senior Software Engineer, AND Digital**

Using my industry experience to help organisations deliver, execute, and accelerate their digital ambitions.

I've been active in recruitment, bringing talent and the right skill-sets into AND, and decisive in creating a community of practice within AND. On and off-client I have mentored and helped develop other ANDis, championing engineering best practices, instilling technical and non-technical knowledge, and agile best practices such as XP.

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

## **02/2021 - present          Senior Software Engineer, BBC**

Significant contribution to the technical design and decision making on a wide range of components across the Universal App Platform, a Capacitor hybrid app platform, including build system and toolchains. Instrumental in forming team values and ways of working and taken lead on a wide range of projects.

Continuation of my work on the Universal App Platform; responsible for delivery of the beta and live app releases.

*Tools & Techs: Pair programming, TDD, Capacitor, React, Trunk-based dev, AWS, CI/CD, Jenkins, JavaScript, E2E Testing*

## **03/2020 - 02/2021          Software Engineer, BBC**

Significant contribution to the technical design and decision making on a wide range of components across the Universal App Platform, a Capacitor hybrid app platform, including build system and toolchains.

Instrumental in forming team values and ways of working and taken lead on a wide range of projects.

*Tools & Techs: Pair programming, TDD, Capacitor, React, Trunk-based dev, AWS, CI/CD, Jenkins, JavaScript, E2E Testing*

#### **11/2018 - 03/2020          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, Trunk-based dev, 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