

Jim Bennett

Developer Advocate, IoT geek, and cloud enthusiast



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I am a developer advocate with 24 years experience in the global tech industry, including 5 years in developer relations. I'm a former Xamarin and Microsoft MVP, and author of *Xamarin in Action* published by Manning. I currently focus on the Internet of Things and the cloud, including hardware, event-driven data processing, visualization of IoT data and Edge computing. As a content creator I have built a range of technical content, including livestreams, videos, conference talks, documentation, hands-on workshops, learning modules, user guides, code samples, and an open source IoT curriculum.

Skills and abilities

- Python
- C++
- C#
- Video creation
- Livestreaming
- Git and GitHub
- IoT
- IoT devices
- Workshop creation
- Curriculum design
- Edge computing
- Serverless
- Data visualization
- Conference talks
- Building demos

Recent Professional experience



Senior Regional Cloud Advocate - Jan 2022 to Present, US

Regional cloud advocate, based out of the Microsoft Reactor in Redmond, WA, and focusing on livestreams, events, and the tech community in the Pacific North West.

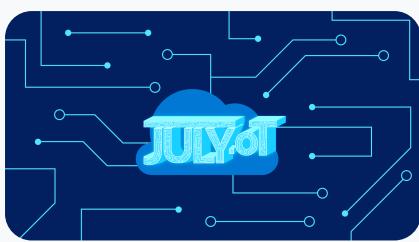
- Delivered a range of technical and interview livestreams reaching over 120K live and on-demand viewers. Tech topics included IoT, C++, Python, wearable technology, and pre-built AI.
- Brought a new wave of creativity to Reactor programming, such as interviewing guests on career tips whilst playing video games (based off research into student engagement from Lincoln University in the UK), and creating fun on demand videos such as a late-night infomercial style video to introduce the Microsoft Reactor in Redmond.
- Made the Reactor event space in Redmond more 'geek-chic', with displays of classic software, a community notice and picture board, a sticker swap table, and retro technology posters instead of corporate artworks.
- Created high production quality on-demand video content in collaboration with the Microsoft Developer Relations Studios teams



Let's Get Personal: Computing - aka.ms/LGPC

A high production value interview show where I chat to guests who have built fun projects that you can reproduce at home, including IoT and robotics. I created the show outline, and planned and scripted all the episodes. I worked with our studio crew to build out the show design, hosted all the episodes, and supported the editing. In the first 6 weeks since the first 4 episodes of this show have been released on a biweekly cadence, the series has had over 10K views.

- Collaborated in a number of cross-organization teams. I ran an IoT virtual team across advocacy, product and field that created multiple collaboration opportunities such as #JulyOT, a 31-day celebration of IoT. I was also involved in an IoT hardware advisory board, a maker champion team, and an IoT learning group.



#JulyOT 2022 - JulyOT.dev

A 31-day celebration of IoT throughout July with blogs, videos and more, including Spanish content shared as #JulloT.

I organized the team that created this across product, advocacy, field and maker teams. Contributions to this came from both internal at Microsoft, and from community members around the world. This led to over 13K online IoT learning modules completed.

- Supported and delivered in-person events such as meetups and a 2-day student-focused open source bootcamp.

Senior Education Cloud Advocate - Feb 2019 to Jan 2022, UK and US

Education cloud advocate focusing on upskilling students in IoT and the cloud, and driving adoption of Microsoft student focused offers.

- Created a cross-organization team to build IoT for Beginners, a free, open source IoT curriculum that teaches hardware, IoT services, serverless telemetry processing, data visualization, and AI on the edge.



IoT for Beginners - aka.ms/IoT-Beginners

24 lesson free, open source curriculum to get you started with IoT.

I built and ran the team that created this curriculum, across product, advocacy, field and Microsoft Learn Student Ambassadors, and wrote most of the content. Hardware selection was in collaboration with Seeed Studio, who now sell IoT for Beginners hardware kits, and I also built an open source hardware simulator for learners without hardware. This curriculum has been used in schools, universities, and for internal training. It has had 390K unique views and is in the top 30 Microsoft GitHub repos by stars. Tsinghua University press are currently translating this to Chinese to publish as a book.

- Created hands-on student workshops covering a variety of topics including IoT, low/no code, and pre-built AI.
- Supported multiple student events, including speaking at global student run conferences, mentored students at hackathons, and ran workshops and talks at the Microsoft Build student zone in 2019 and 2020.
- Mentored Microsoft Learn Student Ambassadors, and Microsoft Imagine Cup teams.
- Supported university faculty with guest lectures, helped them with technology adoption, and sat on curriculum advisory boards for 2 UK universities.
- Contributed product feedback to multiple teams, including raising issues, fixing bugs in open source code and documentation, and giving user feedback.
- Designed and built Microsoft Learn learning modules, including one on visualizing data using Azure Maps.
- Wrote multiple guest blog posts for the official Raspberry Pi blog.

Senior Cloud Advocate - Dec 2017 to Feb 2019, UK

Cloud advocate focusing on upskilling developers in Xamarin and relevant Azure cloud services to support mobile app development, as well as the Internet of Things and Edge computing.

- Created mobile and IoT workshops that have been run at conferences and events around the world, including building and running a workshop that inspired the Oscars mobile app team to use Xamarin.
- Built and presented Xamarin, Azure and IoT conference and meetup talks that were delivered all around the world.
- Created demo projects, blog posts, videos, and other tech content.

Prior professional experience

All my prior professional experience in multiple countries around the world is available on my LinkedIn profile.



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