Luke Blaney BSc (Hons)

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Employment

- Financial Times: October 2016 - Present

    - **Lead Architect - Content**
      Working on our Universal Publishing Platform, delivering Content & Metadata to our products, apps and third-parties.

- Financial Times: December 2015 - October 2016

    - **Platform Architect - Operational Intelligence**
      Working on monitoring, metrics & log aggregation tools. Also started a new API-driven system for keeping track of our systems with automated runbook creation and monitoring management.

- Financial Times: January 2015 - November 2015

    - **Integration Engineer - Strategic Products**
      Working on migrating various systems to cloud-based infrastructure (mainly AWS), including sites like the FT's mobile web app.
      (Note: officially, my job title did not change for this period. Included separately for clarity.)

- Financial Times: December 2011 - December 2014

    - **Labs Developer - FT Labs**
      I began this role focused on web development on a number of projects, such as the FT's HTML5 Web App and FastFT (a realtime news CMS & front end). I frequently debugged a variety of live issues, from small intermittent bugs which can't be reproduced elsewhere to large show-stopping errors which light up monitoring displays like christmas trees.

      However, during the role I became more involved with our integration with backend systems. I wrote a collection of libraries for developers to interact with various pieces of infrastructure (eg Databases, Varnish, Xapian search). I also rearchitectued our Varnish configuration and gave a talk about it at the "VUG 8" conference in Berlin.

      The departure of all our team's sysadmins within a short period of time pushed me to become focused managing the infrastructure itself. I wrote a considerable amount of puppet configuration and templates for configuration of other systems (Apache, Varnish etc) I also contributed to all major decisions regarding infrastructure within them team: combining operational requirements, architectural concerns, and the needs of developers interacting with the infrastructure.

      Towards the end of my time with FT Labs, I took the lead in developing the team's internal tooling. This involved a combination of hands-on coding with the co-ordination of others working on these tools. The tools were eclectic in nature including those which dealt with deployments, live error collection and monitoring aggregation.

- Assanka: November 2010 - December 2011

    - **Web Developer**
      Worked on various web projects for a range of clients, doing both backend and frontend work. Backends included Wordpress, an in-house framework and vanilla PHP. Frontend javascript varied from simple jQuery-based interfaces, to large object-orientated systems which utilised many HTML5 features. Assanka was acquired by the Financial Times at the end of 2011 and was later rebranded "FT Labs".

Previous Work Experience

- Edinburgh University Students Association - **Entertainments Crew - Lighting Technician**: 2007 - 2010

- BBC Irish Language department - **One week's Work Placement**: Summer 2009

- J Sainsbury plc - **Customer Services Assistant**: May 2005 - Dec 2005

- Andor Technology Ltd. - **One week's Work Placement**: February 2005

- Queen's University Belfast Media Services - **One week's Work Placement**: June 2003.

Education

- Edinburgh University: 2006 - 2010

  - **BSc (Hons) Computer Science and Physics**
    My joint degree, with an emphasis on Computer Science, covered specialist areas such as Distributed Systems, Multi-Agent Semantic Web Systems, Computer Security and Communication & Networking.

    One of the aspects of my degree which I particularly enjoyed was the opportunity to work with others to solve problems and challenges, for example, pair programming or as part of a larger group. One group project involved developing a football-playing LEGO®robot which competed in a tournament against other robots. The project required teamwork, communication and time management.

    As part of my honours project I created a web interface for a Semi-Automatic Guesstimation system which provided answers to questions asked by the user. I also enabled the system to get information live from the Semantic Web using SPARQL, a Resource Description Framework (RDF) query language.

    ### Publications

    A Single-Significant-Digit Calculus for Semi-Automated Guesstimation
    Jonathan Abourbih, **Luke Blaney**, Alan Bundy and Fiona McNeill
    Accepted for IJCAR 2010

- Lagan College, Belfast: 1999 - 2006

  - **A-levels**: Maths (A), Irish (A), Physics (B), Chemistry (C)
  - **GCSEs**: Maths (A*), Science (A*A*), Irish (A*) + 1 A, 4 Bs and 1 C.

Positions of responsibility

- London Revolution Cheer - **Secretary**: 2013 - 2014.

- PHP London (including PHP UK conference 2012) - **Treasurer**: 2011 - 2012

- Edinburgh University Theatre Company - **Webmaster**: 2009 - 2010

- Edinburgh University Cheerleading Society - **Publicity Manager/Webmaster**: 2008 - 2010

- Edinburgh University Juggling Society (including 2009 Scottish Juggling convention)

  - **Secretary**: 2007 - 2008
  - **President**: 2008 - 2009
  - **Treasurer**: 2009 - 2010

- Edinburgh University Footlights - **Webmaster**: 2009 - 2010