

Phil Allen

Versatile agile architect who helps teams deliver value early and manage risk. Whole-stack experience, but focusing on services and data with Java and open source technology.

Achievements

DVSA (Kainos), Solutions Architect

Mar 2016 -

Project architect for agile development of MOT system, leading four architects and several teams.

- Governed functional enhancement and mentored other architects and team tech leads, providing cost and risk visibility for delivery managers and client product owners.
- Managed technical relationships with client side architecture and strategy function and with other suppliers. For example, led changes towards continuous delivery and feature-based release.
- To meet Government Digital standards and to ensure fitness for technical handover to DVSA staff, led identification of technical debt and its prioritisation.
- Led delivery of a service using only serverless technologies (Lambda, DynamoDB, API Gateway).

In a client-side role, evaluated scope and architecture of a project versus its intended value. To protect the business service, and reduce spend, designed a technology refresh for existing solution, hosted in AWS. Helped incumbent supplier to prepare proposals including adapted support processes.

Helped clients (HM Land Registry and Allianz Ireland) with digital transformation by consultancy on agile practice and architecture

Aviva, Solutions Designer

Nov 2015 - Mar 2016

Designed multiple integration scenarios and elimination of debt for digitisation of documents. Migration of web services SOAP to REST. Produced options papers and phased solution design.

Nationwide Building Society, Solutions Architect

Feb 2015 - Sep 2015

Architecture and governance of customer communications projects in an environment with many stakeholders, wide consultation and formal reviews.

- Prepared architectural impact assessments, architecture options in consultation with enterprise architects, and outline solutions. Helped development centre staff to take these forward.
- Contributed to release planning, RFIs and vendor selection.

PayPoint.com, Agile Solutions Architect

Jan 2014 - Feb 2015

Payments services (PCI-DSS), with product owners, developers (UML design to code review) and suppliers.

- Delivery of JavaScript SDK and underlying REST services for merchants to improve their payment pages with feedback to consumers about their cards.
- Integration of PayPal into online payments API and hosted payments pages: story shaping, guidance and acceptance of work from off-shore, out-sourced scrum team API mapping.
- Integration of a new risk service based Spark, including specification of metrics, acceptance testing, go live planning; technical management of third party relationship.
- Evaluation of business intelligence products against security, multi-tenancy and integration needs.
- Shaping of integration with a legacy payments platform, including prioritisation, API mapping, quality plan. Co-ordination of stories across development teams.

Defra, Solutions Architect

Dec 2012 - Oct 2013

Architect for the customer-facing components of a new solution for the Common Agricultural Policy.

- For selection of development partner, wrote RFP sections for agile practice, relevant experience, technology fit; contributed to evaluation and selection.
- Architecture options and selection for first releases of rich web client (mapping): legacy integration, authentication, hosting, use of third party mapping service enabling decision and development.

- Governance of agile development process and tools selection to support it (definition of done, CI, test, deploy), working with a development partner.
- Bridged between waterfall incumbent suppliers and agile team, using design by contract and UML and XSD models. Created an integration strategy based on open protocols and loose coupling.
- Technical evaluation of an OTS application package, working with vendor to produce a target architecture offering supported plug-points instead of customization.

Wincanton, Head of Systems Integration

July 2012 - Oct 2012

Manager of development team delivering message-based integration, B2B and internally.

UK Hydrographic Office, Solution Architect

Oct 2011 - June 2012

UKHO provides maritime products on paper and digitally. My role: re-architecture of navigation services in a TOGAF SOA environment; and enhancement of desktop product to enable extensibility.

- Designed integration of MS Dynamics CRM as a campaign and lead management tool, by designing extensions to model customer and prospects fleets, plus data integrations.
- Working in a TOGAF environment, identified and described (WSDLs) catalogue of back end services for digital navigation, including products, ordering and digital rights management, using principles from domain-driven (contexts, events, aggregates).
- Planned transition of .NET monolithic system to service-based catalogue of new services, including migration from heavily bespoke ERP package and refactoring of database.

Screwfix, Business Architect

Mar 2011 - July 2011

Processes and systems for a new venture, exploiting existing fulfilment capabilities.

- Worked with senior stakeholders to define customer journey and supply chain processes.
- Within the enterprise architecture framework, modelled the new venture in Sparx EA.
- Researched CRM offerings and specified extensions to Salesforce to support pre and post processes.
- Worked with technical architects to identify impacts gaps and impacts to fulfilment systems. Proposed work-arounds, and priority order for closing the gaps.

Technical requirements and opportunities for store expansions.

- Identified impacted business processes and systems supporting them. Analysed IT impacts of planned changes to physical logistics infrastructure (regionalisation).
- From the business plan for store expansion, plus data from IT ops, projected key throughput variables through time, identifying critical dates for functional changes and scale.
- Tracing from operational processes, identified and modelled back office systems that posed risks for the business and agreed a plan for mitigation in business risk order.

Nokia Music, Technical Product Manager

Feb 2007 - Mar 2011

Responsible for reporting and payments in the service, operating in over 20 countries. Contribution: end-to-end solutions architecture, governance, agile development (Scrum product owner).

- For the RESTful service architecture, designed resource definitions and service data models, ensuring that the services that were auditable and allowed data recovery.
- Defined Java business event delivery service to integrate RESTful services with traditional data warehouse ETL, writing XSDs and URL template.
- Working with IT operations, defined functionality for monitoring failures and completeness in data flow in the service. Used measurements to prioritize improvements.
- Improved provisioning and deployment in the live service.

For reporting the music business to content owners and Nokia finance function:

- Specified architecture of data warehouse and ETL using Microsoft BI stack (SSIS, SQL Server, SSAS).
- Prioritized work for Scrum team and reviewed test strategy and coverage.
- For a new streaming offering, designed end-to-end solution for royalties from URI generation through log processing (Hadoop) to data warehouse.

SciSys Limited, Senior Consultant**Apr 2006 - Feb 2007**

Won work with a client and delivered through a small team. The Environment Agency were building a public-facing transactional website: contributed to usability and security of site.

- In workshops with senior stakeholders, explored risks to the agency and to their customers, and facilitated the selection of the right level of protection for different customer actions.
- Led and produced lo-fi and HTML + JavaScript mock-ups. Evaluated these mock-ups with agency customers at their sites. Designed customer security journey based on results.

Independent**Oct 2004 - Apr 2006**

For a retail bank, specified a new content management system (CMS) for the intranet. For a fleet management company, designed a data mart and a new algorithm for exploiting data for cost forecasting

Studied for HCI MSc, University of Bath**Oct 2003 - Sep 2004**

For the project, designed, built and experimentally evaluated an enhanced chat client.

Praxis Critical Systems, Senior Engineer**Mar 2001 - Oct 2003**

Responsibilities: delivery of consultancy, team leading, pre-sales, proposals for a consultancy. For AQA (an exam board): led the redesign of business processes for better quality and resource utilisation, through end-to-end process workshops. Produced alternative system change roadmaps, linked to corresponding business process and data ownership changes. Facilitated decision by senior stakeholders.

Independent, Systems Architect**Nov 2000 - Feb 2001**

Solution architecture for the first UK application of Microsoft BizTalk orchestration for LTSB (Factors).

Planet Edge, CTO**Jul 2000 - Nov 2000**

With a technical staff of 18, and working within the financial constraints of a start-up environment, improved services to clients by pushing through changes to improve quality.

Unisys, Systems Architect**Mar 1998 - Jun 2000**

Working on CRM components for retail finance, contributed to product conception and to development methods. As a consultant, helped finance sector clients to deliver e-business projects.

Admiral (now Logica), Technical Consultant**Mar 1997 - Mar 1998**

Consulted to retail finance and utilities clients adopting object-oriented analysis (use cases), design (UML) and development and incremental lifecycles.

JP Morgan, Technical Architect**Jan 1995 - Mar 1997**

Developer, and promoted to technical architect in interest rate derivatives, in both front and back office. Led development team in incremental delivery, and part of architects' virtual team.

Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, Researcher**Mar 1989 - Jan 1995**

Innovation, e.g. designed and prototyped authorisation service of a successful middleware product.

Scicon Limited (at RSRE), Analyst Programmer**Aug 1986 - Mar 1989**

Developer and designer, defence clients. Promoted to team leader.

Qualifications

- MSc Human Communication and Computing, University of Bath.
- BSc (Hons) Mathematics (1st class), University of Manchester.