

STEPHANIE SOMADE

< SOFTWARE DEVELOPER >





CONTACT

07887428541

stephaniesomadee@gmail.com

linkedin.com/in/stephanie-somade

Kent, ME7



PROFILE

Resourceful and impact-driven software developer with a strong commercial background across front-end, back-end, and full-stack roles. Skilled in JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Node.js, Django, and modern ad tech systems. Proven success delivering scalable, revenue-generating features and performance optimisations across high-traffic platforms like The Sun, The Times, and TalkSport.

Experienced in architecting and deploying solutions using AWS (S3, EC2, Lambda), Docker, Terraform, and CircleCI. Adept in testing strategies with Jest, Cypress, and Playwright, and in implementing secure, privacy-compliant code with GDPR and GPP in mind. Strong understanding of RESTful APIs, GraphQL, JWTs, and modern ad tech tooling including bid integrations, floor pricing strategies, and script delivery via CDNs. Experienced in building and testing scalable systems using Jest, Cypress, and Redux Saga Test Plan. Recognised through national award nominations and thought-leadership features. This is currently mentoring junior engineers and actively upskilling in cloud infrastructure.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Junior Software Developer

News UK

August 2024 - Currently

- Delivered clean, maintainable code using Redux Saga, Node.js, and TypeScript and adhering to industry best practices.
- Mentored a new apprentice over a 6-month period, providing practical knowledge and accelerating their onboarding, leading to their contribution on 2 projects within 3 months.
- Deliver clean, production-level code independently.
- Led cross team coordination to create CMS styling on prominent sites like The Sun and The Times, impacting millions of daily users, to enhance both user and editor experience.
- Developed strong skills in application security, successfully mitigating identified SQL injection and XSS vulnerabilities in production codebases.
- Improved performance by optimising page load times by 1850ms by reducing the amount of time the ad library was occupying the main thread, achieved through general refactoring and slight restructure.
- Delivered end to end the transition to cookie-less tracking alternatives for key advertising partners, ensuring full GDPR compliance and maintaining data accuracy during the shift.
- Successfully integrated a new player across *TalkSport* and other platforms, enabling reliable video content delivery to millions of viewers. Migrated video player solutions by changing the player platform, resulting in faster video load times and fewer playback errors.
- Resolved complex race condition issues to ensure optimal user experience and regulatory compliance
- Delivered new ad slot functionality for websites and apps, coordinating cross-team with designers, testers, and ad ops to implement a direct-sold sponsorship logo that bypasses auction logic, aligned with commercial requirements.
- Enhanced compliance tooling by integrating conditional logic, ensuring privacy-focused audience segmentation platforms are only invoked when appropriate user consent is present; built a full test suite using mocked browser data and VPN to validate US-specific scenarios.
- Served as a front-line engineer on a rotational 'opscop' basis, resolving an average of 6 critical production issues per week, significantly contributing to system stability and reducing downtime.

EDUCATION

< SOFTWARE ENGINEERING >

// Apprenticeship
Graduated September 2023

< BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) >

// University of Leicester
Graduated July 2021
2018 - 2021

SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

</TECHNICAL>

Languages: JavaScript (Node.js),
TypeScript, Ruby, PHP

Frontend: React, Redux Saga, Angular,
HTML/CSS/SASS

Testing: Jest, Cypress, Playwright,
Jasmine

DevOps/Cloud: CircleCI, Terraform, AWS,
Bash Scripting

Version Control: Git

Paradigms: OOP/FP

</NON-TECHNICAL>

Problem Solving
Communication
Teamwork & Collaboration
Critical Thinking
Time Management
Attention to Detail

</AWARDS & RECOGNITION>

Created a project from scratch that is used
by the wider team to streamline processes

A co-mentor in the D&I Game Changers Co-
mentoring programme with Sopra Steria

Finalist for Rising Star & Team Member of
the Year Award at News UK Awards

Finalist for the Bupa Everywoman Awards
2024

Had a newsletter piece written on my path
by Student Circuit

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EVENTS 2024/2025

Black Tech Fest
Black Business Show 2024
Google Publisher Speed Games Event
Sopra Steria Co-mentoring Programme

CORE SKILLS & IMPACT

Fullstack Development: Proficient in modern frameworks (React, Angular, Redux Saga), with strong capabilities in building, debugging, and optimising complex features for high-traffic platforms. Experienced on rolling out front end features. Experienced with Node.js and PHP, including developing WordPress plugins and managing robust server-side logic and APIs.

Performance Optimisation: Proven ability to significantly reduce page load times & improve server response speeds to enhance user experience.

Advertising Technologies: Deep understanding and practical experience with header bidding platforms, bidder integrations, and Google Ad Manager (GAM).

Testing & Quality Assurance: Skilled in Test-Driven Development (TDD), proficiently implementing unit, integration, and end-to-end tests to ensure high-quality, reliable, and maintainable code.

CI/CD & Infrastructure Automation: Built and maintained CI/CD pipelines (CircleCI) and automated infrastructure with Terraform.

Security Awareness: Practical experience in identifying and mitigating common web vulnerabilities, including SQL injection and Cross-Site Scripting (XSS).

Collaboration & Mentorship: Regularly participated in pair-programming and actively mentored new apprentices, fostering team productivity and knowledge sharing.

Adaptability & Learning Agility: Consistently demonstrates the ability to quickly learn and adapt to new tools, frameworks, and diverse project challenges across multiple technical stacks.

Software Developer Apprentice

Feb 2022 - Feb 2024

News UK

- A finalist for the 'Apprentice of the Year' at the Bupa Everywoman Awards 2024 nominated by News UK.
- Rotated through multiple engineering teams to gain hands-on experience and broad exposure to software development practices.
- Pursued a Software Engineering Degree Apprenticeship (Level 4) while balancing work responsibilities, enhancing both academic and practical knowledge.
- Proactively sought opportunities to contribute to team projects, including independently owning a project built from scratch using Angular.
- Worked on high-profile brands such as *The Sun*, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *talkSPORT*, *Virgin Radio*, and more, delivering impactful features.
- Gained a comprehensive understanding of the full SDLC, from requirements gathering to deployment and maintenance.
- Demonstrated eagerness to learn and adapt by exploring new tools, frameworks, and best practices across a variety of projects.
- Participated in numerous pair-programming sessions to build confidence and improve technical skills through collaborative problem-solving.
- Developed an understanding of code quality and industry best practices, focusing on maintainability and scalability.
- Learned to build, test, and deploy multiple features, contributing directly to the team's objectives and product success.
- Gained insight into the architecture of complex codebases, enhancing the ability to navigate and contribute to large-scale projects effectively.

COURT CLERK, CORONER'S COURT

September 2021 - February 2022

Kent County Council

- Maintaining communication with bereaved families and overseeing administrative duties such as filing confidential documents and collaborating with court administration officers (CAOs), legal representatives, court office managers (COOs) and chief coroners.

Administration Assistant

2016-2021

DMO Accountancy

- Responsibilities included administrative duties such as writing emails to clients, editing financial statements, filing, and entering data into branch accounts.
- Responsible for diary management and managing all phone calls.
- Negotiated 20% - 30% off office supply vendor.