

Steven Lawton - CV

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Summary

I'm a senior software engineer with over 20 years' experience building reliable, scalable systems across fintech, retail, publishing, and Web3. I specialise in backend and platform work — GoLang microservices, cloud-native infrastructure, and developer tooling that makes life easier.

I've migrated legacy platforms, delivered production-grade services under pressure, and led delivery in high-trust teams. I work fast, debug hard problems, and keep things clean, observable, and maintainable.

Equally happy writing code, shaping architecture, or mentoring devs — and I've got a solid track record of shipping the right thing without fuss.

Personal Statement

I'm a hands-on builder with a track record of making complex systems simpler, faster, and easier to maintain. I thrive in roles that blend technical depth with autonomy — whether scaling backend infrastructure, improving developer experience, or shipping internal tools that quietly save teams hours a week.

I'm curious by nature and happiest when solving real problems for real users. Over the years, I've learned to balance speed with rigour, and pragmatism with long-term thinking. I write code that works, explains itself, and plays well with others — because good engineering is as much about people as it is about machines.

Experience Overview

Over 20 years of professional software development, across roles ranging from hands-on contributor to team lead, and industries including fintech, retail, Web3, and publishing. I've delivered backend systems, cloud-native infrastructure, and cross-platform tools in both startup and enterprise environments.

- **Communication & Collaboration**

Skilled at working with engineers, product teams, business stakeholders, and leadership. Equally comfortable pair programming, mentoring junior developers, or leading cross-functional delivery efforts. Proven in fully remote, hybrid, and co-located teams.

- **Problem-Solving & Adaptability**
Experienced in debugging legacy systems, designing clean architectures, and migrating codebases under time or regulatory pressure. Able to operate under uncertainty, pick up unfamiliar tech quickly, and make pragmatic trade-offs to get things delivered.
- **Delivery & Technical Ownership**
Regularly lead the technical side of migrations, refactors, and infrastructure overhauls. Known for delivering maintainable, observable systems with clear boundaries and reusable patterns.
- **Volunteering & Community**
Longstanding **Beaver Scout Leader**, helping young people build resilience, teamwork, and life skills. This work reflects my broader strengths in leadership, empathy, and building environments where others can thrive.

Skills

Cloud-Native Backend Engineering

- **GoLang**, Java (Spring Boot), Node.js (TypeScript), Scala – used to build scalable microservices and API platforms in domains such as fintech, retail, and e-commerce.
- Deployed services to **AWS** (ECS, Lambda, S3, RDS, IAM) and **Kubernetes** (EKS), managed via **Terraform** and Helm**.
- Designed and implemented secure identity flows using **OAuth2**, **OIDC**, and tools like **Auth0** and **Keycloak**.

DevOps, CI/CD & Platform Tooling

- Built and maintained CI/CD pipelines with **GitHub Actions**, **GitLab CI**, and internal PaaS systems.
- Containerised and orchestrated workloads using **Docker**, **Nomad**, and **Helm**, including service mesh integration (**Istio**) and API gateways (**Kong**).
- Applied secrets management, environment segregation, and delivery automation across dev, staging, and production environments.

API Design, Messaging & Eventing

- Designed and governed APIs using **OpenAPI**, **AsyncAPI**, and best practices for versioning, compatibility, and mocking.
- Built event-driven architectures with **RabbitMQ**, **Kafka**, and cloud-native ingestion pipelines.
- Focused on resilience, structured logging, distributed tracing, and performance tuning in production systems.

Databases & Observability

- Worked with **PostgreSQL**, **MySQL**, **MongoDB**, **DynamoDB**, **Redis**, **InfluxDB**, and **TimescaleDB** across various use cases.
- Set up observability stacks using **Prometheus**, **Grafana**, **Datadog**, and **Kibana**, with custom metrics and alerting.

Web3 & Cryptographic Systems

- Developed and audited smart contracts in **Solidity** (Ethereum), implemented **Lightning Network** integrations, and contributed to open-source decentralised platforms.
- Familiar with crypto wallet infrastructure, decentralised identity flows, and ISO 20022-style messaging for regulated systems.

Testing, Quality & Reliability

- Practised **TDD** and **Pair Programming** in production teams, with testing suites built using **JUnit**, **TestNG**, **Mockito**, and API tools like **Postman**.
- Delivered regression, integration, and performance test coverage within CI/CD pipelines.

Developer Experience & Tooling

- Built internal tooling for developer onboarding, spec validation, and workflow automation using **GitHub Actions**, SwaggerHub**, and platform-native SDKs.
- Fluent with **IntelliJ**, **VS Code**, **Vim**, **Makefiles**, and Linux-based dev environments.
- Advocated for clean DevEx and DX automation in high-velocity teams.

Communication, Leadership & Delivery

- Led delivery of critical migrations, refactors, and platform rebuilds, often in lean or embedded teams.
- Skilled in technical planning, mentoring, and stakeholder communication across engineering, product, and ops.
- Volunteer **Beaver Scout Leader**, with strong people skills, group leadership experience, and commitment to inclusive teamwork.

Transferability:

Experience gained in fintech, retail, and e-commerce is highly transferable to SaaS, infrastructure, Web3, public sector, and regulated industries. Comfortable working across domains where performance, security, and team agility are key.

Why Me?

I'm the person teams turn to when something's complex, messy, or stuck. Whether refactoring a legacy system, standing up a new platform, or building internal tooling, I focus on leaving systems clearer, teams faster, and outcomes stronger. Trusted to work independently or lead delivery when it matters, I've built a career on pragmatism, depth, and getting things shipped. Readers often conclude I'm a strong fit for platform-oriented, backend-heavy roles where autonomy, clarity, and consistent delivery matter.

Experience

Sainsbury's - Senior Full Stack Developer

Mar 2025 - Jul 2025 · Remote

- Improved developer experience by building robust **GitHub Actions** and reusable workflows in **TypeScript** to automate API onboarding across internal teams
- Integrated **OpenAPI** and **AsyncAPI** specifications into **SwaggerHub Design Hub** and **Portal**, streamlining governance and delivery
- Initiated and led the design of a new service for managing **request state, authentication, and authorisation** within Sainsbury's internal **PaaS** (Kubernetes, Helm, GitHub Actions)

Technologies: TypeScript, GitHub Actions, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, SwaggerHub, OpenAPI, AsyncAPI

Sainsbury's Smart Shop - Senior Full Stack Developer

Nov 2023 - Mar 2025 · Remote

- Migrated legacy PHP services to **GoLang microservices**, significantly improving app scalability and maintainability
- Contributed to development and optimisation of **Android (Kotlin)** and **iOS** apps using **TDD** and **pair programming** practices
- Reduced memory allocation by **40%** on a key endpoint through profiling and optimisation, cutting cloud operational costs
- Strengthened performance, reliability, and resilience across the **Smart Shop** ecosystem through hands-on backend and mobile development
- Designed backend services and mobile endpoints to resist probing, spoofing, and abuse — operating under constant exposure to production load testing, malicious actors, and synthetic traffic
- Implemented defensive coding practices, observability hooks, and secure client/server flows within a heavily scrutinised consumer-facing environment
- Integrated with **GraphQL** and **gRPC** services from other teams, ensuring compatibility and robustness across multiple protocols, while maintaining REST as the primary interface for Smart Shop

Technologies: GoLang, Android (Kotlin), iOS, Docker, AWS (ECS), TDD, Pair Programming, REST, gRPC, GraphQL

Ace Web Services Ltd - Development Lead (for Barbourne Brook)

Dec 2023 - Mar 2024 · Remote · Fixed Price Project

- Replaced a fragile, underperforming **PHP application** with a scalable, event-driven data pipeline built in **GoLang**
- Conducted full system/code review, defined modern architecture, and led delivery of microservices deployed to Kubernetes (EKS)** via **Terraform**
- Dramatically improved data throughput, enabling the client to target larger customers previously blocked by performance limitations
- Designed for scalability, observability, and future extensibility using cloud-native best practices

Technologies: GoLang, Docker, AWS, Kubernetes (EKS), Terraform, RabbitMQ, PHP, PaaS, DevOps

Sainsbury's Groceries Online - Senior Full Stack Developer

Nov 2022 - Nov 2023 · Remote · Contract (3 + 3 + 3 + 3 months)

- Delivered **Server-Side Rendering (SSR)** features across core grocery applications to boost performance and user experience
- Built and maintained **GoLang microservices** for backend features and API integration
- Streamlined DevOps workflows, integrating **Node.js** into the backend pipeline and improving delivery across environments
- Led migration to a new internal **Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)**, leveraging **Kubernetes (EKS)**, **Istio**, **Helm**, and observability tools to modernise infrastructure and enhance scalability
- Applied robust **secrets management**, environment isolation, and secure deployment practices across **Kubernetes** and **Terraform** stacks
- Hardened microservices and API gateways for multi-team use in a large-scale, multi-tenant environment, with an emphasis on **governance**, **auditability**, and **resilience**

Technologies: GoLang, Node.js, React, Docker, AWS, Kubernetes (EKS), Terraform, DevOps, Istio, Helm, Kibana

Ace Web Services Ltd - Development Lead

Oct 2022 - Dec 2022 · Remote · Fixed Price Project for whartonbc.co.uk

- Designed and delivered a bespoke self-assessment tool for Wharton Business Consultancy
- Built a workflow where users enter job role details and answer dynamically generated questions
- Implemented a scoring system that compares user responses to expected role competencies and suggests relevant training pathways
- Delivered a full-stack solution using **GoLang**, **React**, and **PostgreSQL**, deployed on **AWS** with containerisation via **Docker**

Technologies: GoLang, Docker, AWS, Postgres, React

Baanx Group - Development Lead

Apr 2022 - Aug 2022 · Remote · Fintech

- Led the redesign of Baanx's core platform to meet **scalability**, **compliance**, and **regulatory** demands (PCI DSS, PSD2, GDPR)
- Rewrote critical product components from **Node.js/React** into **GoLang**, improving performance, modularity, and maintainability
- Introduced **containerisation with Docker**, and provisioned a scalable **AWS ECS** environment using **Terraform**, enabling smooth rollout for new and existing clients
- Migrated all B2B and B2C customers to the new infrastructure, unlocking onboarding for high-profile fintech partners
- Architected and initiated phase two: **multi-tenant capabilities**,

security hardening, and **Keycloak-based** identity and access management

- Embedded secure **secrets management**, isolated environments, and **zero-downtime migration strategies**
- Supported regulatory alignment through infrastructure modernisation, process redesign, and technical upskilling of internal teams

Technologies: GoLang, Node.js, React, Docker, AWS, Terraform, RDS, Keycloak

RS Components - Senior Developer

Sep 2021 - Apr 2022 · Remote · Retail/Engineering

- Delivered a new **internal payment service** to replace legacy SAP components, ensuring **PCI** and **PSD2** compliance
- Developed and deployed **Java 11 / Spring Boot microservices** within RS's modern DevOps environment
- Integrated services with platforms such as **Auth0, TokenX, CyberSource, Adflex, and VoxPay**
- Worked across a high-scale cloud environment using **AWS, Kubernetes, Nomad, and Terraform**
- Contributed to continuous delivery workflows, leveraging **GitLab CI, Datadog** for observability, and **Kong** for API management

Technologies: Java 11, Spring Boot, Docker, AWS, Kubernetes, Nomad, GitLab, Terraform, DynamoDB, RDS, Datadog, Swagger, Kong, Auth0, TokenX, CyberSource, Adflex

Rayvn.digital / Monavate Ltd - Senior Developer

May 2021 - Sep 2021 · Remote · Fintech / Blockchain

- Helped design and build a **multi-vendor marketplace and eCommerce platform** using **GoLang, Kafka, and Kubernetes****
- Contributed to a **closed-loop digital sales and data platform**, aligned with **ISO 20022 messaging** and blockchain integrations**
- Took ownership of the company website and **core product architecture**, collaborating with a distributed team (including Ukraine-based developers)
- Delivered internal tooling and infrastructure, including **SharePoint rollout** and a **Google Workspace to MS365 migration** for 30+ employees
- Supported product evolution across **Ethereum, Solidity**, and decentralised technologies

Technologies: GoLang, Kafka, Java, Kubernetes, Docker, Azure, Linux, GitLab, Ethereum, Solidity, Jekyll

Primis Mortgage Network - Java Developer

Feb 2021 - May 2021 · Remote · Financial Services

- Maintained and extended the **Toolbox platform**, a key compliance and workflow tool used across the mortgage network
- Delivered **bug fixes and new feature development** on a legacy stack, ensuring FCA-compliant behaviour and broker usability

- Operated within a small, focused dev team, working across **Spring Boot, Struts, EJB3, and JSP**
- Contributed to stabilising and incrementally modernising the codebase while supporting live service delivery

Technologies: Java, Spring Boot, Angular, Struts, EJB3, JSP, IntelliJ, Linux, GitLab

Samsung - Java Developer

Oct 2018 - Feb 2021 · Cambridge (Onsite & Remote) · Mobile / Embedded Systems

- Contributed to **automated testing tooling** for Android devices, used globally to benchmark RF connectivity and performance
- Maintained and extended a **Java-based orchestration application** coordinating test execution across hardware setups
- Implemented **JUnit and integration tests**, user-driven enhancements, and critical bug fixes across Java, Bash, and Python layers
- Ensured seamless interaction between test scripts, Android devices, and a central results processing system

Technologies: Java, Python, Android SDK, Bash, IntelliJ, Linux, Git, Gerrit, JUnit, TestNG, Mockito, Jira, Agile/Scrum

Nokia - Java Developer

May 2018 - Sept 2018 · Cambridge · Video Ad Delivery / Media Streaming

- Built **RESTful Spring Boot microservices** to serve re-encoded, personalised video ads on-the-fly based on user streaming profiles
- Developed new functionality in **Dockerised backend services**, contributing to a scalable content delivery pipeline
- Supported QA by maintaining and extending **Python-based simulators** used for automated testing
- Delivered unit and integration test coverage using **JUnit, Mockito, and TestNG**

Technologies: Java 8, Spring Boot, Docker, Spring MVC, Eureka, Zuul, MySQL Cluster, Python, IntelliJ, Git, GitLab, Jira, Linux, Agile/Scrum

RS Components - Java Developer

October 2016 - April 2018 · Corby · Infrastructure Modernisation & eCommerce

- Led upgrade of legacy tech stack to enable a high-pressure **data centre migration**
- Contributed to multiple follow-on projects including:
 - Migrating the entire eCommerce site to **HTTPS-only**
 - Implementing **China-specific regulatory changes** for regional compliance
 - Rewriting the B2B eCommerce solution using **Spring Boot microservices** in preparation for cloud migration
- Refactored and containerised **legacy servlet-based Java code** into modern **Docker-based microservices**, deployed to physical servers with a view to future cloud migration

Technologies: Java, Spring Boot, Docker, MongoDB, Oracle, Seam, Struts, JPA/Hibernate, Apache, JBoss, REST, Linux, Agile/Scrum, JUnit, TestNG, Mockito, Eclipse, Git, Jira

BGL Group - Java Developer

Nov 2015 – Feb 2016 · Peterborough · Insurance & Telematics Integration

- Contributed to the **O2 Telematics** project as part of a large Agile team
- Designed and implemented the integration of **O2's SSO system** into BGL's internal services, enabling secure exchange of telematics data with providers and customers
- Worked across **RESTful APIs (O2)** and **SOAP services (BGL)** to bridge legacy and modern systems
- Delivered work in a **high-compliance insurance context**, with careful attention to data security and integration reliability

Technologies: Java, Mule ESB, Tomcat, REST, SOAP, SSO, Git, Jira, Bamboo, Confluence

MoMo Group Ltd - Java/Scala Developer

Jan 2015 – Nov 2015 · Cambridge · Fintech Startup

- Delivered backend services for **MoMo Top** (global mobile top-up via PayPal) and a new **mobile banking application**
- Quickly upskilled in **Scala**, moving from initial Java work to core feature development using **Akka** and **Scalatra****
- Designed and implemented key product functionality as part of a **small Agile team**, collaborating closely with senior management on high-priority initiatives
- Built RESTful APIs and service-oriented components to support mobile-first user experiences in global financial contexts

Technologies: Scala, Java, Akka, Scalatra, MySQL, MyBatis, T24, Tomcat, Jetty, Nginx, Linux, Jira, Bitbucket, Bamboo, Confluence

Jagex Ltd - Java Developer / Web Systems Developer

2013 – 2014 · Cambridge · Games / Online Services

- Maintained and extended the **Microtransaction (MTX) platform** powering in-game and app-based purchases for Jagex titles
- Delivered both **customer-facing applications** and critical **internal RESTful services**, supporting online game infrastructure
- Contributed to story estimation, task breakdown, and delivery planning within an **Agile Scrum team**
- Maintained rigorous **automated test suites** (unit, integration, regression), ensuring platform reliability across services
- Built service-oriented backend components and participated in cross-team software-as-a-service (SaaS) integrations

Technologies: Java, Groovy, Spring MVC, JPA/Hibernate, Postgres, Informix, Neo4j, Infinispan, RabbitMQ, JBoss, Linux, Nginx, Git, Eclipse, Jira, JUnit, TestNG, Mockito

PCMS - Java Developer

2011 - 2013 · Huntingdon · Retail Software (ePOS)

- Delivered a custom **Electronic Point of Sale (ePOS)** platform for a Tier 1 Australian retailer, completing the project **three months ahead of schedule** and **under budget** — a first for the company
- Extended the core **BeanStore** product to meet client-specific requirements across a large retail estate
- Worked in a newly formed **Agile Scrum team**, contributing to sprint planning, story breakdown, estimation, and technical delivery
- Developed features and fixes against **customer-defined acceptance criteria**, and collaborated with QA and business analysts to ensure quality
- Supported internal testing teams by providing fixes, guidance, and context on implementation and expected behaviour

Technologies: Java, Spring MVC, Struts, JPA/Hibernate, DB2, Oracle, JBoss, WebSphere, Linux, Mercurial, Eclipse, JUnit, TestNG, Mockito, iText, Maven, Crystal Reports, Jira

TravelTainment Ltd - Developer

2010 - 2011 · Peterborough · Travel Tech / eCommerce

- Developed and maintained **enterprise web applications** used by travel agents and tour operators worldwide, built using **Java, PHP, and Seam**
- Created and maintained **data adaptor services** to transform and standardise inbound formats (e.g. flat files, SOAP, REST, custom XML) into internal representations for processing and caching
- Sole developer for a **Spring Web Flow-based product** targeting international markets, from initial design to delivery
- Actively contributed to **international Agile teams**, collaborating across time zones and disciplines
- Involved in **technical interviewing**, assessing candidates and advising management on hiring decisions

Technologies: Java, PHP, Seam, Spring Web Flow, jQuery, JBoss, JBoss ESB, XSLT, JPA/Hibernate, DB2, Oracle, MySQL, LDAP, Linux, SVN, Maven, JUnit, TestNG, Eclipse, Jira

Whistlebrook Ltd - Analyst Developer

2004 - 2010 · St Ives, Cambridgeshire · Fintech / Bespoke Software

- Delivered full lifecycle software solutions for high-profile clients including **Suzuki GB, TNT**, and major **UK building societies**
- Hands-on across **analysis, estimation, development, testing, documentation, deployment**, and **3rd-line support**
- Led technical handovers, authored support documentation, and provided ongoing assistance for **legacy systems** across financial products
- Acted as on-call escalation contact for **business-critical deployments**, including on-site visits and direct client liaison
- Co-founded and maintained internal **IT infrastructure**, later supporting a dedicated infra team in 3rd-line capacity
- Provisioned new development environments: **virtual machines**,

OS installs, hardware setup, and full application stacks

Technologies: VB.NET, C#, Java, SQL Server, Oracle, legacy MS Access systems, IIS, Windows Server, VMWare, bespoke ETL tools, internal DevOps workflows

Open Source & Personal Projects

Sphinx.chat - Contributor (*Ongoing, Paid Bounty Work*)

- Contribute GoLang, Node.js, and Docker-based features to a Lightning Network-powered chat, social, and payments platform
- Completed paid bounties in areas such as protocol integration, service containerisation, and testing infrastructure

Selected GitHub Projects

- **ip-monitor** - Public
Discord bot written in **Go** to monitor IP changes and broadcast updates; includes pinned message sync and basic alerting
- **go-telegram-alert** - Public
Lightweight **Go** logger extension that forwards logs to **Telegram**, ideal for low-footprint services
- **GPT-Whisper-captions** - Public
Subtitle generator using OpenAI's Whisper API and **Go**, producing embedded captions from transcribed video audio
- **xlsReader** - Public
Go library for reading legacy .xls Excel files; maintained fork with improvements and usage documentation
- **ace-loto-backend / ace-loto-pwa** (*Private*)
Complete **GoLang** + **TypeScript** stack for a Lock-Out Tag-Out (LOTO) management PWA; includes QR code-based check-in flows, audit logs, and API validation tools
- **my-payment-gateway** (*Private*)
Custom **Go** microservice to simulate and validate card payment flows with support for test harnessing and telemetry
- **SliceWise / rconDash / seo-stuff** (*Mixed visibility*)
Tools ranging from Minecraft server dashboards to content automation and SEO auditing, built for internal use and learning

Additional private projects span domains including DevOps, eCommerce, API design, and developer tooling - frequently built using Go, Docker, Kubernetes, and JavaScript/TypeScript.

Contact

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- **Company:** acewebservices.co.uk
- **Location:** Cambridgeshire, UK (Remote-friendly)