Gary Gale

A self professed *geek with a life*, I've had a lifelong love affair with maps since discovering the [**Harry Beck**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Beck) map of the London Underground on the back of the London A-Z street atlas at an early age. I now live in Teddington in South West London with my family and work in London, Berlin, Boston, Chicago and Sunnyvale as the Director of [**Places for Nokia**](http://maps.nokia.com/). I'm the co-founder of [**WhereCamp EU**](http://wherecamp.eu/), the chair of [**AGI W3G**](http://www.w3gconf.com/) and sit on the [**AGI Council**](http://www.agi.org.uk/), the [**W3C POI Working Group**](http://www.w3.org/2010/POI/) and the [**UK Location User Group**](http://location.defra.gov.uk/).

Prior to Nokia, I was at [**Yahoo!**](http://maps.yahoo.com/), leading their [**Geo Technologies**](http://developer.yahoo.com/geo/) group in the UK, releasing [**GeoPlanet**](http://developer.yahoo.com/geo/geoplanet/) and [**Placemaker**](http://developer.yahoo.com/geo/placemaker/) and providing the geo heavy lifting for [**Flickr**](http://www.flickr.com/) and [**Fire Eagle**](http://fireeagle.yahoo.net/); I've also been at Digicon, developing geophysical technologies to aid in the search for natural resources and at the [**European Space Agency Research Institute**](http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ESRIN_SITE/index.html) in Rome, Italy, participating in the development and launch of [**ERS-1**](http://earth.esa.int/ers/satconc/), Europe's first remote sensing satellite. Outside of the location and geo field, I've been at companies including the [**BBC World Service**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/), [**Reuters**](http://www.reuters.com/), [**Factiva**](http://www.dowjones.com/factiva/?from=factivaHome) and [**Network Associates**](http://www.mcafee.com/uk/).

As well as being the creator of the [**WP Biographia**](http://vicchi.github.com/wp-biographia/) [**WordPress plugin**](http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-biographia/) and occasional contributor to the [**Mapstraction**](http://mapstraction.com/) mapping API, I speak at a wide range of conferences including [**Nokia World**](http://events.nokia.com/nokiaworld/), [**Where 2.0**](http://whereconf.com/), [**State of the Map**](http://stateofthemap.org/), [**AGI GeoCommunity**](http://www.agi.org.uk/geocommunity/), [**Geo Loco**](http://geoloco.tv/) and [**Social Loco**](http://socialloco.net/), [**GeoMob**](http://geomobldn.org/), [**mashup\***](http://www.mashupevent.com/), the [**BCS Geospatial SG**](http://geospatial.bcs.org/web/), [**WhereCamp EU**](http://wherecamp.eu/), [**the Location Business Summit**](http://www.thewherebusiness.com/locationsummit/) and [**FOWA**](http://futureofwebapps.com/).

I blog as regularly as possible on location, places, maps and other facets of geography at [**www.vicchi.org**](http://www.vicchi.org/) and you can find me on Twitter as [**@vicchi**](http://twitter.com/vicchi).