

Dan Garland

Technology Founder, Developer and Instructor

"Expressing creativity through innovative web development"

For expanded information on the content of this C.V. please visit me

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About Me

After graduating in Computer Science, I have nearly twenty years experience in analysing, developing and delivering web applications. I have a passion for creating tech businesses: the product and the teams that drive them. In 2013 I founded my own software consultancy and training business, providing over 80 developers with their first web development job. I am a creative person and enjoy the challenge of applying technology to real-world problems.

Objective

I am currently looking for a fresh challenge in a tech leadership role, developing products for web or mobile platforms. I believe that at the current stage of my career, I require good alignment on company mission and seniority, ideally a Technical Lead / Head of Engineering / CTO role in Health, Education, Music or Tech for Good.

Technical Skills

Proficiency: Full-stack, Agile web development: Ruby (Rails/Sinatra), JavaScript (Gatsby/React/Redux/Typescript), Web (HTML/CSS), Systems Architecture, DevOps, SQL / Databases.

Learning: Go, Solidity (Smart Contracts), distributed/decentralised systems, Event-driven Architecture

Experience (~ 17 Years Commercial since 2003)

Smiling Sessions

Social Care / Music

Technical Lead

Aug 2020 - Present

- Worked with a charity that provide performing musicians to entertain care home guests to continue their important work throughout the COVID-19 lockdown. I developed a progressive web app using GatsbyJS to create a video player that provides offline playback, thus allowing care home managers to roam without connectivity and provide entertainment and respite to residents.
- The App uses third party integrations with Cloudinary and Stripe.js for streaming and payment.
- I developed a product strategy for the charity to sell pre-made equipment bundles, ready for care home to use, driving donations.
- The app was featured on ITV, and various press outlets, with several celebrity performances.

Checktrade (LevelUp)

Marketplace

Senior Software Engineer

Aug 2019 - July 2020

- Delivered the new consumer platform built on Kubernetes, Mircoservices, React.js, Kafka and AWS within a three-month timeframe.
- Created workflows for contract changes between microservices using Pact, and incorporated into our CI/CD. This provided the only effective end-to-end testing in our service mesh. Created documentation and support material for other developers and advocated its adoption.
- Delivered a microservice written in Go, that provides geocoding and geolocation features. Used by the organisation's IVR and Search systems.
- Created services that interface with a Kafka event bus and helped design the messages for

account creation.

- Created a microservice that is responsible for all core Search functionality on the platform, built on top of ElasticSearch.
- Created a microservice that pulls analytics data used as part of the Search algorithm, using DynamoDB and Ruby. This saved the business insights team considerable time and effort in uploading flat files and importing them, whilst delivering real-time data for Search.

Mind (Kyan)

HealthTech

Lead Developer

May 2019 - Aug 2019

- Team lead for a client-facing project using React.js, Ruby on Rails and Web Sockets to create a social networking experience for a major charity. Strong emphasis on privacy and user safety features.
- Liaised with clients and management on project management and deadlines.
- Provided mentoring for colleagues in full-stack development and agile best practices.

Messly

HealthTech

Interim CTO

Nov 2018 - Mar 2019

- I managed a tech team on an interim basis while the business sought a full-time CTO. I was responsible for agile product management and delivery, AWS infrastructure and dev-ops, whilst working closely with the developers to ship new features.
- I worked on a bespoke JavaScript stack, serving a React / Redux based UI from a Node.js API in front of a Postgres database.
- I advised the founders on technical direction and estimates on new products. I introduced an agile culture of working with stories and sprints.
- I recruited a lead developer and devised a technical assessment and interview process.

Oxford University Press

Publishing

Senior Devops Engineer

Oct 2018 - Nov 2019

- I was approached eight years on from the original development to provide support and maintenance for the University's iTools system I helped develop, and help manage the transition to a new system.

Coca Cola European Partners

Corporate

Senior Devops Engineer

July 2018 - Aug 2020

- I was responsible for handing over the support and maintenance of the Webby award winning project, having been on its original development team eight years before.
- I helped advise on GDPR compliance, security, SSL certificate renewal and server admin for the project.
- I managed the transition from the legacy to the new system, including DNS management.

Vega Protocol

FinTech

Co-Founder, Senior Engineer

Jan 2018 - July 2018

- I was a founding team member of Vega Protocol, a decentralised financial products platform that uses blockchain technology to facilitate trades of derivatives of crypto assets.
- I worked on the collateral holding smart contracts written in Solidity, and worked on the API backend using Go, Protobuf and Swagger to build and document a gRPC / REST interface.
- I gave a talk at Takeoff Conference promoting the platform covering the application of software design patterns to Solidity smart contract code.

Pharmaseal

Health

Interim CTO

Throughout 2016-2017

- I helped create a startup disrupting the Clinical Trials software space. I trained the CEO and his dev team on my We Got Coders course, and placed five junior developers with the company.
- I created the founding architecture and infrastructure to meet the company's strict auditing

and security / multi-tenancy requirements.

- I mentored the development team, providing one to one teaching, pair-programming and code review.
- Our MVP helped secure the company's first round of investment, securing two year's runway for the team.

Hostelling International

Travel

Lead Developer / Mentor

Sep 2013 - Sep 2014

- I handed over a multi-supplier project to two of my trainee developers, helping to fix bugs preventing the launch of the product.
- I sourced and supplied four developers to HI over the following years, providing pair-programming and mentoring support.
- I introduced front-end frameworks to manage a legacy jQuery application and setup an agile / TDD culture.
- The website was earmarked to be shelved, but with the solid tech capability the product survived and has continued to generate all of the charity's revenue for over ten years.

HandsHQ

Health & Safety Mentor

Sep 2013 - Sep 2016

- I helped recruit and build the entire tech team for HandsHQ, providing five developers over a three-year period to support the company's growth.
- I provided hands-on mentoring, pair-programming and code review, facilitating my trainee developers to deliver an MVP product and secure next stage funding.

We Got Coders

Consultancy, Training

Founder

Jul 2013 - Jan 2018

- I founded my own training and recruitment company called We Got Coders, specialising in the training of junior developers. I manage the entire business operations: I designed the marketing strategy for the business, run operations on a day-to-day basis, teach web development and devised the course curriculum.
- I grew the training business from nothing to a company generating over £500,000 a year, in addition to running a consulting and recruitment business. I sought no investment and grew entirely from sales and repeat business.
- I directly employed over 25 junior web developers and gave them their first opportunity in web development. I successfully placed them into permanent positions with our client base, following a twelve week course covering full-stack development that I deliver in house.
- I have been responsible for and managed a hotel business, providing bed and breakfast accommodation at two Grade II listed properties, being responsible for rent negotiation and contracts, fire safety, advertising and promotion, stores and managing housekeeping staff.
- I developed an online e-learning platform in Rails / MongoDB aimed at part-time coders, teaching web development on weekends.
- I developed a sales function for the company, creating a customer relationships database in Rails and using in-house junior developers to build it.
- I ran a sequence of free workshops aimed at women learning to code to promote equality in the workplace, leading to a number of leads who have gone on to take our course and pursue a career in web development.
- Working remotely in a pair with my trainee recruits, I developed several projects with clients including:
 - The ward management software for the Renal department at King's Hospital London
 - The content management software for Coca Cola Enterprise Partners
 - The point of sale system at Hostelling International
 - The interactive documentation software at HandsHQ
 - A proof of concept sports gaming system at Iconic Worldwide Events
 - An MVP for athletes to manage their diet ahead of competitive events at Make Weight
 - A security management platform for corporates at Cortex Insight
 - A content management system for Carillion
 - A lecture hall planning app for the University of Hertfordshire

General Assembly **Education** **Instructor** **Mar 2013 - June 2013**

- I developed and taught an intensive 3-month program covering the essentials of web development, to a group of 17 adult learners in New York City.
- The course covered a range of topics, covering Ruby on Rails, Front-end frameworks, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Testing and TDD, Agile Software Development, Databases and Computer Science.
- I devised most of the classroom exercises and materials from scratch, drawn from my experience in the sector, aimed at giving students the knowledge required of Junior Web Developers.

SupaDupa **E-commerce** **Senior RoR Developer** **Nov 2012 - Mar 2013**

- I built the new shipping module for SupaDupa.me, an e-commerce platform. Working on an agile basis, I created a complex multi-channel shipping system that integrates with the existing checkout mechanism.
- I built a new module allowing merchants to print shipping labels via an external API, providing a new revenue stream to the business
- I implemented a Barclays ePDQ integration with Active Merchant, enabling the platform to accept credit card payments for the first time, increasing sales for the business.

PencilIn **Learning Marketplace** **Lead Developer** **July 2012 - Dec 2012**

- I recruited and led a team of freelance Ruby developers to create a services marketplace for education courses.
- I was responsible for the entire project, from creating user stories, testing and overseeing the development and liaising with the client.
- The site featured an advanced integration with PayPal, multi-user registration with Devise and full-text search.

New Black **Music Promotions** **RoR Developer** **June 2012**

- I worked alongside the New Black digital music agency on the promotions campaign for a major album release. I devised an application that allows Facebook users to encode and decode messages to their friends in the campaign's typeface, using Ruby on Rails. The Facebook app is fully integrated, including a 'Like' gate.

Hilton Hotels (Forward 3D) **Hotels** **Ruby Developer** **May 2012**

- Working for the Forward 3D agency, I created a gateway server, using Sinatra, that adds a layer of functionality onto the reservations and bookings system for the Hilton Hotel Group, editing XML SOAP requests. The system handles all incoming traffic for the entire business.
- I created a URL generation system, using Padrino, AJAX and JQuery, that allows administrators to generate URLs for the new Hilton search system.

Libertrip **Travel** **Contract Developer** **Oct 2011 - April 2012**

- I worked for six months on Rails development for Libertrip, a travel start-up based in Lille, France. I delivered new features, enhanced data retrieval and built an API, upon which the operations of the company is based.
- I spoke business level French with the team whilst discussing strategy and architecture.
- I introduced a culture of agile development using user stories and I created a test suite. Using cutting-edge asynchronous technology, I created a system written in Ruby and Sinatra, that used EventMachine to greatly enhance the speed of data delivery and enhanced the user experience of Libertrip.
- I took an existing Rails codebase and upgraded the underlying classes to Ruby 1.9.

Most Rated

Music Discovery Founder

Jan 2011 - Jan 2012

- I directed a new music technology start-up company, which developed a music discovery service called Most Rated. The site had a sophisticated mechanism to automatically select tracks from the pool of artist's submissions, and collates the content into a continuous stream, like a radio station.
- I developed a web application comprising of Ruby on Rails, HTML5, MongoDB, EventMachine and RESTful API integration (Facebook, Mixlr).
- I devised a business plan for the project, a marketing strategy and fund-raised. I worked with local venues, artist managers and creative suppliers to source the locations, the artists, creative and video for the project.
- I organised, curated and compered live events: taking money on the doors, paying artists, organising equipment and venue liaison.

Previous Experience

Phatnights	Freelance RoR Developer	March 2011 - June 2011
TouchLocal	Freelance Frontend Developer	Aug 2010 - Sep 2010
Oxford University Press	Contract RoR Developer	Jan 2010 - March 2010
Hubbub	Contract RoR Developer	August 2009 - Dec 2009
Westfield Stratford City	Contract RoR Developer	May 2009 - July 2009
Titan Entertainment	Lead Web Developer	April 2005 - Sep 2008
Gamcom Ltd.	Junior Developer	Aug 2004 - Apr 2005
Mathias & Sons Ltd.	Developer	July 2003 - Feb 2004

Education

2:1 BSc Computer Science University of Bristol Bristol, UK 2001-2004

- I attained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Bristol; consistently within the top five computer science departments in the UK.
- I led a group of five students working on a group project to design a software front-end and device driver for a digital MP3 player written in C. In addition to programming, I was responsible for time management and milestone setting, task allocation, administration of the group website and version control.
- I wrote a thesis as a proof of concept for networking middle-ware in computer games. It was an individual project to design a client / server network application that explored advances in next-generation market trends such as cloud computing. Used Java and X3D, a cutting-edge graphics standard for the Internet.

3 A-Levels Beacon Community College E. Sussex, UK 1999-2001

- A in Computer Science, A in Business Studies and B in Mathematics.

Awards

Webby Honouree	2013	Coca Cola European Partners (Corporate Responsibility)
Webby Honouree	2011	Hubbub (Retail)
British Interactive Media Awards	2010	Hubbub
Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP) Award	2003	Mathias & Sons

Interests

I play piano, keyboards and synthesizers, and enjoy composing my own music. I work with several musicians and have worked with a top record producer on song-writing and session playing. I attained a Grade 8 piano, after winning the Sheila Mossman Award for the highest mark in the country for Grade 6 piano, 2008. Some of my compositions are online at <https://soundcloud.com/dmgarland>

I am actively learning French. I particularly enjoy reading in French, especially translations from English authors.

I am interested in the start-up tech scene, often attending meet-ups, hackathons and talks. I recently spoke at TakeOff Conf in Lille, France on cultivating web development talent.

I am interested in start-ups and entrepreneurship. In 2003, my first web development project for Mathias and Sons was entered for the regional Shell Technology and Enterprise (STEP) award, and I won a local and regional heat. Based upon my performance in both the project, demonstration and my presentation, I was named "the most enterprising student in the South West of England 2003".

In my spare time I enjoy reading, walking, running, cycling, cooking and playing chess.