

CHRIS ASHTON

Senior Software Engineer

Focused on **a11y**, **UX**, **perf**, **standards**, **docs**
Cares about **diversity**, **flexible working**, **trust**
Enjoys **bouldering**, **writing**, **singing**



ashton.codes



chris AT ashton.codes



/in/chrisbashton



chrisbashton

Projects

StudentMunch.com - food review site, using structured data markup to show as reviews in search results. Built as a Progressive Web App on top of AMP.
Service Workers • *AMP* • *PWA* • *PRPL pattern* • *Offline first* • *Structured data*

GitHooks.io - horizontally scalable, hosted webhooks platform. Allows developers to write and share GitHub webhooks.
LAMP • *AWS Lambda & EC2* • *GitHub API* • *OAuth* • *Node* • *Composer*

SmartResolution.org - online dispute resolution platform with plugin support for AI-driven resolutions. Awarded the Best Major Project prize at university.
Cucumber & Ruby • *PHP* • *SQL* • *PDO*

Secretary - automatic quality assurance editorial checks for WordPress posts. Built to be extensible and config-driven.
WordPress • *YAML* • *SVN* • *Open-source*
wordpress.org/plugins/secretary/

3D Solar System - solar system written in WebGL.
WebGL • *JavaScript* • *HTML5* • *CSS3*
[chrisbashton.github.io](https://github.com/chrisbashton)

References

References available upon request.

Profile

Senior web developer specialising in delivering responsive and accessible front-end solutions. Currently helping to lead the Visual Journalism team within BBC News.

Achievements

- Graduated top of the class, awarded **Best Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**
- **Published several articles in *Smashing Magazine***; search @ChrisBAShton
- Invited to speak at the **Paris Web conference** in October 2018
- Awarded **Best Contributor of the Year** at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015
- **Founded my own company**, *Webdapper Ltd*, whilst at university
- Sing in the **BBC Symphony Chorus**, whose concerts are broadcast internationally

Experience

Feb 2017 - Present **Senior Software Engineer** BBC

- Recruited and trained a global team. Line manager and mentor several developers, allocating projects that align with their goals.
- Rewrote a complex Chrome extension using React and Redux.
- Upgraded legacy tech stack to pure Node/NPM and Webpack (including bespoke plugins). Migrated deployment pipeline to AWS.
- Promote accessible web design through voluntary role of "Accessibility Champion". Written a series on a11y at *Smashing Magazine*.

Feb 2016 - Jan 2017 **Web Developer** BBC

- Devised and implemented an abstraction strategy to deliver Visual Journalism content across the BBC and third-party platforms.
- Regularly created multi-lingual, full-stack applications for the web and the BBC apps, covering high profile events to tight deadlines.

Jul 2015 - Jan 2016 **Test Engineer** BBC

- Led the ongoing development of the Wraith visual regression testing tool, now the BBC's most-starred open-source project.
- Hand-built a BDD framework in Node. Ran this on CI, using Docker.
- Championed the adoption of user stories as a communication tool and test specification, saving hours of wasted developer effort.

Aug 2014 - Present **Founder** Webdapper Ltd

- Developed over 10 sites to date (including some design/UX).
- Generated over 20,000 Facebook likes for clients.

Jul 2013 - Aug 2014 **Trainee Web Developer** BBC

- Developed applications such as the *Commonwealth Games* feature: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28062001>. This was televised on BBC Breakfast. I also took the initiative to translate it to Welsh.
- Built a toolkit which sped up some developer tasks by up to 97%
- Templated the 'datapic' format. Blog: <http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz>

Education

2011 - 2015 **BEng (Hons) Software Engineering** (1st class; BCS-accredited)
Aberystwyth University

2003 - 2010 **A-Levels: AAB, AS Level: B, GCSEs: 13** (11 at A*/A)
Lampeter Comprehensive School