

# CHRIS ASHTON

## Senior Software Engineer

Focused on **a11y**, **perf**, **standards**, **docs**

Works at **diverse**, **flexible**, **autonomous** places

Enjoys **bouldering**, **writing**, **singing**



ashton.codes



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/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/](https://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

Experienced full-stack web developer, front-end specialist, and pragmatic and organised leader. Currently working for the Government Digital Service.

## Achievements

- Graduated top of the class, awarded **Best Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**
- Awarded **Best Contributor of the Year** at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015
- Spoke at the **Paris Web** 2018 conference: <https://vimeo.com/295213010>
- **Published a series of articles in *Smashing Magazine***; search @ChrisBAShton
- Sing in the **BBC Symphony Chorus**, whose concerts are broadcast internationally

## Experience

April 2019 - Present **Developer** Government Digital Services

- Working on EU Exit microsite (Ruby on Rails) on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

Nov 2018 - April 2019 **Acting Technical Lead** BBC, Articles

- Led the delivery of v1 of the new BBC article renderer: an isomorphic React single page application and shared component library.

Feb 2017 - Oct 2018 **Senior Software Engineer** BBC, Visual Journalism

- Recruited and trained a global team. Line manager and mentor several developers, allocating projects that align with their goals.
- 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, Visual Journalism

- 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, Visual Journalism

- Led the ongoing development of Wraith screenshot testing tool - the BBC's most starred open-source project - and hand-built a BDD framework in Node. Set up Docker test suites on CI.

Aug 2014 - Present **Founder** Webdapper Ltd

- Founded my own company whilst at university. To date, I've planned, designed and developed over 10 websites for clients.

Jul 2013 - Aug 2014 **Trainee Web Developer** BBC, Visual Journalism

- Developed the *Commonwealth Games* feature, which was televised on BBC Breakfast. I also took the initiative to translate it to Welsh.
- 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