



# CHRIS ASHTON

## Senior Software Engineer

 ashton.codes

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## Projects

**StudentMunch.com** - food review site, using structured data markup to show as review in search results. Bespoke WordPress theme built in AMP.  
*AMP* • *Structured data* • *Validation*

**GitHooks.io** - horizontally scalable, hosted webhooks platform. Allows developers to write and share GitHub-integrated 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/](http://wordpress.org/plugins/secretary/)

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

## References

References available upon request.

## Profile

Senior Web Developer specialising in delivering responsive & 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**
- Awarded **Best Contributor of the Year** at the BBC News Developer Awards 2015
- **Published in *Smashing Magazine***: “High-Impact Cross-Browser Testing”
- **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
- Devised & implemented an abstraction strategy to deliver Visual Journalism content across BBC products & third-party platforms.
  - Actively promote accessible web design through my voluntary role as “Accessibility Champion”.
  - Recruited six excellent developers internationally through writing job ads, screening CVs and code tests, and running interviews.
  - Line-manage a number of colleagues & manage their objectives.
- Feb 2016 - Jan 2017 **Web Developer** BBC
- Led the team’s upgrade to a componentised project architecture, resulting in faster development and more robust content.
  - Regularly created multi-lingual, full-stack applications for the web and the BBC News/Sport apps, covering high profile events.
- Jul 2015 - Jan 2016 **Test Engineer** BBC
- Set up test suites on CI, spanning unit tests, integration tests and visual screenshot tests inside Docker.
  - Led the ongoing development of the Wraith visual regression testing tool, now the BBC’s most-starred open-source project.
  - Hand-built an in-house BDD framework in Node.
  - Led my team’s 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.
  - Generated over 20,000 Facebook likes for clients.
- Jul 2013 - Aug 2014 **Trainee Web Developer** BBC
- Created ‘mobile-first’, bespoke applications to tight deadlines for the BBC News website, delivering to an audience of millions.
  - 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** (Grade: 84%. BCS-accredited)  
Aberystwyth University

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