

# Stephen Mount

Freelance CTO, Technical Architect/DevOps Engineer based in London

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I have worked as a technical architect in a variety of industries over 10 years, I am now best described as a "hands-on" CTO/technical architect. I partner with startup founders, stakeholders and management to always strive to create healthy and productive teams.

I've been contracted on a variety of challenging projects for UK Government, startups that are raising capital and a handful of blue-chip companies to deliver high quality technical solutions to tight deadlines and rigorous standards.

I translate the process of implementing coding standards, security checklists, end-to-end testing and performance so that technical solutions and digital experiences (App/Web/Kiosk/AR/VR) can be delivered quickly (by consolidating technologies) so a team can push these products to production seamlessly without hiccups.

I practice in Agile Scrum/Kanban and Continuous Delivery so I also join technical grooming sessions, retrospectives and product road map/backlog refinement sessions.

## Technical Experience Summary

I have experience with the following:



### **API Frameworks/Language**

- **JavaScript** – Node.js.
- **PHP** – Laravel, Symfony.
- **Java** – SpringMVC.
- **Python** – Django.

### **DB**

- **Relational** - PostgreSQL/MySQL/Aurora
- **NoSQL** - MongoDB/SQLite
- **Graph Databases** - Neo4J

### **Caching**

- **In-Memory** Redis/Memcache (Elasticache)
- **Load Balancing** Varnish/HAProxy/Nginx

### **Content Management Systems**

- **PHP** Drupal 6/7/8 [My Drupal.org profile](#).
- **Hosted CRM** HubSpot CRM, HubSpot Landing Pages

### **Misc.**

- **Scripting** bash/sh/Ruby  
proficient w/ python3 for **Lambda Functions**.

### **Front-end Technologies**

- **JavaScript** (OO/ES6)  
Good understanding of **Vue.js** and similar frameworks.

### **Testing stack(s)**

- **End to End (E2E) testing** [codecept.io](#) and Nightwatch.js
- **Unit Testing** JUnit/PHPUnit/Jest/Mocha

### **PaaS**

- **GOV.UK** cloud (Cloud Foundry)
- **Firebase**

### **DevOps Related Stacks**

- **Serverless** w/ Node.js, PHP
- **Docker** Amazon ECS
- **Kubernetes** Amazon EKS
- **CI/CD - Continuous Integration/Delivery**  
CircleCI/TravisCI, BitBucket Pipelines, GitHub Actions

### **Search**

- Amazon ElasticSearch
- Apache SOLR

**AWS experience** includes RDS, Route 53, IAM, SQS, SNS, S3, Elastic Files, code pipeline, Lambdas, API Gateway.

I use **Terraform/AWS CloudFormation** and **Hashicorp Vault** to manage infrastructure.

### **Management tools:**

I use a suite of tools to create automations for **sales pipelines**, **marketing solutions**, **transactional email**, **push notifications** and use the power of **JIRA** to create **custom Agile/Scrum workflows** that meet the needs of processes for product development.



## Career History

### Liv-ex Wine Traders/Merchants

Technical Architect/DevOps – London – Oct 2018 - Present

Creating automation for a complex technology stack spanning a number of technology vendors; including a long term architecture refactoring strategy. 20M+ API calls.

<https://www.liv-ex.com>

**Technologies** API Gateway, **Java** SpringMVC apps, Python, **BitBucket Custom Pipelines for CI/CD**, Terraform/CloudFormation, S3, Route 53, RDS, IAM, SQS.

### MRM Meteorite

Software Engineer – London – Jun 2018 - Sep 2018

Working on front-end JavaScript widgets for [vauxhall.co.uk](http://vauxhall.co.uk) helping consumers find cars suitable for their budget and requirements.

**Technologies** JavaScript, Laravel, Atlassian Bamboo CI, Custom Linux.

### Big Brand Ideas and sister company <https://trunk.agency>

DevOps and Technical Assurance – London – Apr 2018 – Jun 2018

Refactoring code, planning builds and server infrastructure across projects.

**Technologies** Node.js, PHP, AWS, Docker, Terraform

### Transform UK for BEIS GOV.UK

Technical Associate – Westminster, London - May 2017 – March 2018

Building a [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk) compliant web app for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Regulatory division.

**Technologies** PHP/Node.js, TravisCI/GOV.UK CloudCucumber/Mocha, Nightwatch, JMeter

### Big Brand Ideas T/A <https://trunk.agency>

DevOps and Technical Assurance – Manchester/London – July 2016 – May 2017

Squeezing the most out of website performance, AWS infrastructure+devops and planning Drupal 8 site architectures.

**Technologies** Jenkins, Node.js, PHP. AWS included EC2, IAM, SNS, S3 via Terraform.

### Elbi Digital - Social Enterprise For Good

Interim CTO – January 2016 – July 2016

Planning roadmap and managing iOS releases, idea generation, writing tests, managing external suppliers, A/B Testing, Maintaining technical architecture. [elbi.com](http://elbi.com)

**Technologies** Java, MEAN stack, Ruby, AWS includes RDS, IAM, SQS, SNS, S3, Elastic Files, code pipeline, Terraform.



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



## Dennis Publishing

Developer – Fitzrovia, London - November 2015 – December 2015

Enhancing an extensive portfolio of web sites for Dennis publications such as [Auto Express](#), [buyacar](#), [PC Pro](#). Technologies PHP, JavaScript.



## Young Rewired State

Ambassador of the Festival of Code 2015 – Pimlico – Jul 2015 – Jul 2015

I judged, sponsored and was involved in weeklong hackathon for 1000+ young people pioneered by [Emma Mulqueeny OBE](#). This event was featured by BBC News and was the largest hackathon hosted at the Birmingham N.E.C. The winning projects are [here](#).



## Macmillan Education

Developer/Consultant – Old Street - March 2014 – June 2014

Working with clients to go to market with web apps (JS/PHP), Drupal sites, **JS** applications and **iOS** applications.

**Technologies** JavaScript, PHP, Java, ObjC/Swift.



## BBC Worldwide

Software Engineer – White City – August 2014 – March 2015

Overhaul the front-end experience of

[BBC Good Food](#) and [TopGear.com](#)



## Vivienne Westwood

Developer – Chelsea – May 2014 – July 2014

I worked with the "Commerce Guys" on performance enhancements, code refactoring and server configuration to improve page load times to improve sales conversion/ newsletter signups. [viviennewestwood.com](#)



## Rackspace

Technical Consultant – Feb 2014 – May 2014

Worked with Rackspace on products that improve their customers API/e-commerce performance using Rackspace cloud and dedicated products.

[www.rackspace.co.uk](#)



## Comic Relief

Developer – Nov 2013 to Feb 2014

Maintaining, extending and optimising performance of Sport Relief

Refactoring and profiling site-wide JavaScript/CSS to reduce network time/latency, improve reliability and performance on mobile/tablet devices including low-spec devices such as a Samsung Galaxy Ace, Blackberry Curve. [sportrelief.com](#)



## NBC Universal

JavaScript Developer – Jun 2013 to Oct 2013

Managing a portfolio of 35 multi-lingual websites for NBC Universal across a handful of geographies. Introduced responsive templates, improved page speed, automatic builds, squeezing performance out of Varnish. [13thstreet.de](http://13thstreet.de)

[universaltv.co.uk](http://universaltv.co.uk)



## Web Technologies Group on behalf of The Home Office.

Web Developer – Jan 2013 – Jun 2013

Building and extending AES encrypted secure extranet using Drupal 7 as an XML-RPC https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Syfy\_Universal.svg C service and JSON endpoint. JS libs used: **Backbone, Require, jQuery, Jasmine, Karma** – Frameworks: **Drupal**



## Freelance Consultancy

JavaScript Developer – Sep 2012 – Dec 2012

Creating Angular web app prototypes w/ Rails-based Services for government clients.

JS Libs used: **Angular, RequireJS, Ruby on Rails**

## CapGemini for Eurostar.com

Frontend Developer (OO JS, PHP 5, Drupal) – June 2012 - August 2012

Developed a responsive theme for Drupal 7 site [Eurostar.com](http://Eurostar.com) using HTML5/CSS/JS.

JS Libs: **Require, jQuery**



## Care Quality Commission

JavaScript / Backend Developer - Aug 2011 - June 2012

Fixed showstopper bugs, identified caching and site building issues, implemented new functionality work across supported browsers to a tight deadline. Worked in an agile environment with numerous stakeholders and suppliers, this contract included working with large data sets, load balancers, caching and Apache SOLR. Created custom autocomplete widget for SOLR on homepage. [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)



## Drupalise IT

Software Engineer / Linux Sysadmin - January 2008 - Jul 2011

I founded Drupalise IT to take on larger Drupal projects.

- Pitching for Drupal work and finding developers suitable for projects.
- Used a variety of CMS/frameworks including Drupal, Codelgniter and Umbraco.
- Performance tweaks, scaling solution.



## **Relevant Information**

- **Technical Proficiency** Highly proficient in computing including build & repair, maintenance and networking. Advanced user of Microsoft technologies, OS X, Linux and MS Office.
- **Business Software/Methodologies** Agile Kanban. HubSpot Workflows, JIRA Workflows.
- **Security Clearance** Valid BPSS still in date. SC Clearance expired Mid-2014. SC Cleared projects are considered.

## **Additional Information**

- **Interests** Fitness, Gadgets, Sound Reinforcement, Cars/Motorbikes.
- **Hobbies** Riding motorbikes, dining out, Musical Theatre, Recycling old technology.
- **Driving Licence** Full UK Motorbike and Full UK Driving license.
- **Marital Status / Dependencies** Single; None.
- **Language** Fluent in English.

## **References/Testimonials**

“ I have always maintained that good devs appreciate testing effort and Steve is certainly one of those, and wasted no time in contributing to test framework and showed genuine interest in the testing side. Steve is not only a solid developer but has a bewildering array of tech skills extending to dev-ops and ops.

*Working with devs like Steve makes projects not only fun to work on, but gives me more inspiration to extend my own skills. A team player who does not shy away from being vocal in his opinions and quick to help others. He has genuine passion of tech and it's very infectious! You would not regret hiring him.”*

**Paul Littlebury** Senior Test Engineer at BEIS/[Gov.uk](#)

“ Steve is a knowledgeable developer with excellent technical skills. Steve is friendly and dedicated. Steve is a great asset for any development team.”

**Dlair Kadhem** Senior Developer at [Sport Relief](#).

“ Stephen demonstrated a high level of technical ability and all round solid knowledge of software engineering best practices and methodologies.”

*“I would recommend Stephen and hope to work with him in the future.”*

**Jon Edery** Senior Developer at [Eurostar](#).

“ Stephen is enthusiastic, proactive and astute. He is a great asset to any team, working well with others and often providing innovative solutions to problems. I have worked with him on numerous occasions, the experience has always been enjoyable and the outcome positive.”

**Simon Poulston** Solutions Architect