

# LUKE BLANEY BSc (HONS)

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## Employment

- Financial Times: October 2016 - Present
  - **Lead Architect - Content**

Working on our Universal Publishing Platform, delivering Content & Metadata from a range of editorial tools to our websites, apps and third-party B2B clients. In this role, I'm responsible for architectural decisions across 6 development teams (approximately 50 developers in 2 countries). I also work closely with product owners, editorial stakeholders and developers in other teams who interact with our platform.
- Financial Times: December 2015 - October 2016
  - **Platform Architect - Operational Intelligence**

I was technical lead on a team looking after monitoring, metrics & log aggregation tools. I architected a new API-driven system for keeping track of our systems with automated runbook creation and monitoring management. My role was a mixture of system design and development - much of my development work focused on the front-end to cover a skills gap within the team. I was also heavily involved in the recruitment of new developers.
- Financial Times: January 2015 - November 2015
  - **Integration Engineer - Strategic Products**

Worked on the migration of various systems to cloud-based infrastructure (primarily AWS) to facilitate the switch-off of physical kit in our datacentres. I led the migration of all the infrastructure used by the FT's mobile web app to AWS, which involved lots of Puppet code and the recruitment of a contractor to assist in the project. As part of this I architected and built a deployment mechanism using varnish, nodejs and puppetdb, which allowed for zero-downtime promotion of different versions of code running in parallel on groups of EC2 nodes.

[Note: Officially, my job title did not change for this period. Included separately for clarity.]
- Financial Times: December 2011 - December 2014
  - **Labs Developer - FT Labs**

I began this role focused on web development on a number of projects, such as the FT's HTML5 Web App and FastFT (a realtime news CMS & front end). I frequently debugged a variety of live issues, from small intermittent bugs which can't be reproduced elsewhere to large show-stopping errors which light up monitoring displays like christmas trees.

However, during the role I became more involved in our integrations with backend systems. I wrote a collection of libraries for developers to interact with various pieces of infrastructure (eg Databases, Varnish, Xapian search). I also rearchitected our Varnish configuration and gave a talk about it at the "VUG 8" conference in Berlin.

The departure of all our team's sysadmins within a short period of time pushed me to become focused on managing the infrastructure itself. I wrote a considerable amount of puppet configuration and templates for configuration of other systems (Apache, Varnish etc) I also contributed to all major decisions regarding infrastructure within them team: combining operational requirements, architectural concerns, and the needs of developers interacting with the infrastructure.

Towards the end of my time with FT Labs, I took the lead in developing the team's internal tooling. This involved a combination of hands-on coding and the co-ordination of others working on these tools. The tools were eclectic in nature including those which dealt with deployments, live error collection and monitoring aggregation.
- Assanka: November 2010 - December 2011
  - **Web Developer**

Worked on various web projects for a range of clients, doing both backend and frontend work. Backends included Wordpress, an in-house framework and vanilla PHP. Frontend javascript varied from simple jQuery-based interfaces, to large object-orientated systems which utilised many HTML5 features. Assanka was acquired by the Financial Times at the end of 2011 and was later rebranded "FT Labs".

## Previous Work Experience

- Edinburgh University Students Association, Entertainments Crew - **Lighting Technician**: 2007 - 2010
- BBC Irish Language department - **One week's Work Placement**: Summer 2009
- J Sainsbury plc - **Customer Services Assistant**: May 2005 - Dec 2005
- Andor Technology Ltd. - **One week's Work Placement**: February 2005
- Queen's University Belfast Media Services - **One week's Work Placement**: June 2003.

## Education

- Edinburgh University: 2006 - 2010
  - **BSc (Hons) Computer Science and Physics**  
My joint degree, with an emphasis on Computer Science, covered specialist areas such as Distributed Systems, Multi-Agent Semantic Web Systems, Computer Security and Communication & Networking.  
As part of my honours project I created a web interface for a Semi-Automatic Guesstimation system which provided answers to questions asked by the user. I also enabled the system to get information live from the Semantic Web using SPARQL, a Resource Description Framework (RDF) query language.

## Publications

*A Single-Significant-Digit Calculus for Semi-Automated Guesstimation*  
Jonathan Abourbih, **Luke Blaney**, Alan Bundy and Fiona McNeill  
Accepted for IJCAR 2010

- Lagan College, Belfast: 1999 - 2006
  - **A-levels**: Maths (A), Irish (A), Physics (B), Chemistry (C)
  - **GCSEs**: Maths (A\*), Science (A\*A\*), Irish (A\*) + 1 A, 4 Bs and 1 C.

## Positions of responsibility

- London Revolution Cheer - **Secretary**: 2013 - 2014.
- PHP London (including PHP UK conference 2012) - **Treasurer**: 2011 - 2012
- Edinburgh University Theatre Company - **Webmaster**: 2009 - 2010
- Edinburgh University Cheerleading Society - **Publicity Manager/Webmaster**: 2008 - 2010
- Edinburgh University Juggling Society (including 2009 Scottish Juggling convention)
  - **Secretary**: 2007 - 2008
  - **President**: 2008 - 2009
  - **Treasurer**: 2009 - 2010
- Edinburgh University Footlights - **Webmaster**: 2009 - 2010