LUKE BLANEY BSC (HONS)

Email Address: cv@lukeblaney.co.uk

Technical leader with expertise across a range of domains, most recently in Cyber Security. Have particular experience managing teams which are either new or have recently been through an organisational change.

Key Skills: Technical Leadership & Strategy, Technical Communication, Incident Management (Operational & Security), Technical Architecture

Employment

• Financial Times: February 2023 - present

Cyber Security Director

Set strategic direction for cyber security at the FT.

- Defined the vision and set the strategy for IT Risk and Cyber Security.
- Senior stakeholder management acting as a bridge between business colleagues and engineers.
- Introduced and oversaw a new process for renewing and refreshing technical policies across the organisation.
- Responsible for security incident management and contributed to wider crisis management.
- Spent 3 months on secondment to the FT's parent company, Nikkei, in Tokyo. Assisted their product security function and strengthened ties between the two companies.
- Financial Times: April 2022 January 2023

Interim VP of Cyber Security

Led the company's cyber security function through a period of organisational change.

- Built a central cyber security function, combining a number of teams which had previously reported into different parts of the organisation.
- Line managed a team of a dozen people from different disciplines, including Engineers, Risk Analysts and those in IT governance roles.
- Steered the direction of Security work across the technology department, and the organisation as a whole.
- Worked with a third party consultancy to build a strategic roadmap and help prioritise security initiatives.
- Involved in recruitment of a permanent VP of Cyber Security.
- Financial Times: February 2018 March 2022

Principal Engineer - Reliability Engineering, Cyber Security, Observability & Edge Delivery

Ran a selection of engineering teams throughout this period, including building a new one from scratch. Led the company-wide strategic direction in these areas, as well as managing the delivery of initiatives within the relevant teams.

- Managed engineers of various seniorities, including managers of other engineers.
- Responsible for the relationship with an off-shore 3rd party engineering team.
- Worked on vendor management of a range of key suppliers (including the FT's code repository platform, issue tracking platform & content delivery network). Set the direction for these relationships to align with our broader tech strategy. In a number of cases, this included a full migration from on-premise software to Software-as-a-Service alternatives.
- Recruited engineers for vacancies within our teams, including both internal & external candidates. Aimed to keep diversity and equity at forefront of hiring decisions, including actively modifying our recruitment process following feedback from neurodiverse candidates.
- Was a department rep for the move of our company headquarters. In collaboration with reps from across the business, I worked representing the 300+ people in our area, ensuring they could make the move seamlessly.
- Led work on the democratisation of security data, to enable engineering teams to make better decisions around their own risks, beginning with an aggregated view of vulnerability data.
- Managed security incidents across the business; collaborated with Operations team to improve the incident process.

• Financial Times: October 2016 - February 2018

Architect - Content

Worked on our Universal Publishing Platform, which delivers Content & Metadata from a range of editorial tools to our websites, apps and third-party B2B clients.

- Responsible for architectural decisions across a whole programme of work (6 dev teams, in 2 countries)
- Collaborated with Editorial Tech team to design and build a metadata management tool for the newsroom.
- Worked closely with stakeholders from Editorial, B2B and Technology departments.
- Successfully repositioned our relationship with an existing supplier so they'd take on operational responsibility for the software they were building.
- Devised a framework for tracking progress on a multi-year project to decommission a suite of legacy software, in a way that made sense to both delivery managers and engineers.
- Took on line management responsibilities for integration engineers in our team.

I think my proudest accomplishment here was transforming a team heavily reliant on having an architect to one where engineers felt empowered to make their own architectural decisions.

• Financial Times: December 2015 - October 2016

Platform Architect - Operational Intelligence

Technical lead for a new team responsible for observability tools used across the company. We replaced the organisation's CMDB with a tool which better bridged the gap between Engineering and Operations teams. My role included:

- System design, development and backlog prioritisation
- Upskilling a team from disparate backgrounds and recruitment of junior developers
- Moving the team's processes to a kanban agile delivery workflow
- Stakeholder and supplier management
- Financial Times: January 2015 November 2015

Integration Engineer - Mobile Apps

Led the migration of the FT's mobile apps from on-premise to cloud-based infrastructure in AWS.

- Adapted existing workloads to run on cloud
- Recruited a contractor to assist with the migration
- Architected & developed a cloud-native zero-downtime deployment pipeline

Earlier Career

- FT Labs Labs Developer: December 2011 December 2014
- Assanka Web Developer: November 2010 December 2011
- Edinburgh University Students Association, Entertainments Crew Lighting Technician: 2007 2010
- J Sainsbury plc Customer Services Assistant: May 2005 Dec 2005

Talks & Panels

- Panel: Building security into your engineering workflow LeadDev 2021 Moderated an online panel about improving cyber security across engineering organisations.
- Panel: Observability Strategies for Distributed Systems InfoQ Live 2020 Discussed approaches for observability when using microservices at this one-day online conference.
- Monitoring All the Things: Keeping Track of a Mixed Estate QCon London 2020; Continuous Lifecycle 2020

Spoke about effectively monitoring the tech estate of a company which uses a variety of different technologies and monitoring approaches. Was also on a panel about the value of microservices at the QCon event.

• Creating a multi-factor authentication solution — Varnish Summit & Awards, Los Angeles 2016 Spoke about how the FT used varnish to protect our estate with MFA and tackle phishing attacks. Also collected the Varnish Innovation Award at the same event.

For a full list of Talks & Panels I've done, see https://lukeblaney.co.uk/talks/

Education

• Edinburgh University: 2006 - 2010

BSc (Hons) Computer Science and Physics

A joint degree, with an emphasis on Computer Science, covering specialist areas such as Distributed Systems, Multi-Agent Semantic Web Systems, Computer Security and Communication & Networking.

Publications

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