

Matthew Platts – Curriculum Vitae

Tel: 07460 614340 Email: mattplatts@gmail.com

Introduction:

Experienced and results-driven Senior Software Engineer with over 11 years in the security domain, including 9 years at Bluecoat, continuing through its acquisitions by Symantec and later Broadcom. I bring a deep full-stack engineering background with proven expertise in Python, PHP, Node.js, React, and JavaScript, alongside strong capabilities in designing and maintaining robust cloud infrastructure using Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Terraform, Kubernetes, and Docker.

Having worked on large-scale, security-focused systems in both startup and enterprise environments, I've developed a keen understanding of performance, scalability, and security best practices. Over the past few years, I have shifted focus toward DevOps and infrastructure automation, leading initiatives to improve CI/CD pipelines, infrastructure as code, and container orchestration.

I am now looking to further my career either in a team leader role where I can remain hands on and perhaps help to mentor a team, or specialize in DevOps and platform engineering roles, where I can combine my development background with modern infrastructure and operations practices.

Key technology stack experience:

Back end: LAMP Stack with either Python, Perl or PHP. MVC design patterns. Strong skills with linux command line. Unit testing with PHPUnit and Python Nose. Zend 1.1 and custom PHP frameworks. Joomla and Wordpress CMS including modifying both at core level. Mysql, PostgreSQL and MS Access databases. Some C++.

Front end: HTML5, Javascript inc. JQuery & Mootools, CSS inc. Sass and Less, media queries and responsive design. Node, Angular and React.

DevOps: Docker, Kubernetes, Jenkins, Artifactory, Terraform

Version control: Git (command line and with Gitlab), Subversion, CVS

Project management: Jira, Slack, Gitlab

Other: Previously: MS Access databases including vb script and stand-alone Visual Basic, PostgreSQL and stored procedures, Flash and Shockwave including actionscript 2, C/C++. Photoshop, InDesign. Final Cut Pro, Google Analytics.

Education:

Chesham High School

GCSE English (A), English Lit (C), Maths (C), Chemistry (C), Physics (C), French (C), Music (C)

Amersham College Of Further Education

A Level Physics (C), Pure & Applied Maths (C), Psychology (D)

Employment

History:

Feb 2016 - Present Senior Software Developer at Broadcom Software, (formerly Symantec, formerly Blue Coat Systems)

Skills Used: Python, Perl, PHP, Linux, Apache, Front End, including Node, Angular, Docker, Kubernetes and Jenkins.

The core work was Developing and maintaining the licensing, enforcement, telemetry and other systems for our best-in-class security appliances including Proxy SG, Content Analysis System and many others which are used by 90% of Fortune 500 companies. This included Creation and development of APIs allowing appliances to communicate with our systems, and front ends for customers to licence and maintain their subscriptions, view telemetry data and produce reports. The existing back end implementation was very old, using mainly Perl

and bash scripts as a backend language. All of this was based on custom frameworks which I re-wrote and modernised based on the principles of REST and MVC. I began to move our code to Docker containers, later I moved much of this to Python and the hosting was moved from dedicated servers to Google Cloud with full containerisation Kubernetes.

As licensing was owned by the Business side rather than IT, I also had to work with IT regarding integration but from a business perspective. This involved frequent travel to head office in San Jose, California.

My greatest achievement was my placement from the business side into the IT department for three months at head office to coordinate the integration of the old Blue Coat licensing systems with Symantec's in 2018 to ensure that all the business objectives were fulfilled. This included working closely with the heads of IT, product and project managers, identifying requirements for testing and allocating testing to the teams, working closely with both Business and IT in scrutinising and developing the plans and architecture, feeding back to the business side along the way as their main source of knowledge of what was happening.

I stayed throughout the development and code release for smoke testing and remained on site for several weeks to ensure everything was working as planned. This operation was a huge success.

Another part of the job was to provide top tier support to our Sales Engineers and Customer Care on a 24/7 emergency response basis to departments when they had technical issues regarding urgent issues, many of which I would have to call in other teams such as IT and the product teams to work with me to find solutions.

Apr 2015 - Nov 2015 Lead Developer at Portcullis Internet Security LTD

Skills used: PHP, Perl, Linux, PostgreSQL inc. triggers and stored procedures, XSLT and PDF generation using Apache Fop, and also full front end - HTML5, OO Javascript (pure and JQuery), node.js, CSS

I was lead developer and manager of the internal development team for a penetration testing company, largely hands on and with a keen focus on security due to the sensitive nature of the data involved.

The software I worked on was a PostgreSQL back end with a web based front allowing the automated import of network and website scanning data from various in-house and third party pen test tools, performing data analysis and creating customised reports for the customer with minimal user interaction from this. Almost everybody in the company was a stakeholder, and the job involved liaising with the managers and testers to get the best ideas for features and development, discuss and prioritise and oversee the build, UAT and implementation. When the company was bought by Cisco I liaised with their internal development teams regarding integration of software into their systems.

This job gave me invaluable in-depth experience in the security field from many angles.

Jun 2013 – Apr 2015 Technical Team Lead at goHenry LTD

Skills Used: Javascript, HTML5, CSS, JQuery, JSON, PHP, Zend Framework, MVC, Php Unit, REST, SOAP, MySQL, Wordpress, Git.

I was the technical lead for goHenry, a fintech company based around the idea of teaching children and teenagers the value of money. The goHenry card comes with unique parental controls via web and mobile phone apps, and instant mobile notifications allowing parents to keep an eye on their children's spending habits in real time, whilst allowing them to be independent and understand the value of money with savings accounts, extra task based payments, blocking spending by category etc.

I was the first technical employee of this company, charged with hiring the subsequent team to pull all the software in house from a third-party development company. The job involved leading technical development, mentoring juniors, and day to day management including assigning work, code reviews, release management etc.

I hired a Zend expert to focus on the back end and worked mainly on the front end myself, leading development of a custom oo javascript framework which made extensive use of ajax and jquery and templating using Embedded Javascript, which provided a frontend interface consuming Json from the back end via a REST api. There was also a lot of work using CSS and LESS on the company's public facing website.

The backend comprised of a Zend 1.1 PHP framework which utilised a lot of SOAP calls to external financial services, and I oversaw the rewriting of this which had suffered greatly from a lack of future vision in the initial build.

Accuracy and thorough testing was crucial in this fintech role and dealing with financial data using the weakly typed Javascript provided it's own complications. I oversaw the move to Typescript but already being in production we had to work with what we had under meticulous testing for a long time.

Aug 2012 - Jun 2013 **Lead Developer at ManBuysPresent.com (also Marco Pierre White's London Steakhouse Company which was owned and run by the same team)**

Skills Used: Javascript, JQuery, PHP, MySQL, HTML5, CSS, Git

Run by Rachel Ogilvie Robertson (and partners) - a renowned city businesswoman who regularly appeared in the "40 under 40" lists, and who was also a panellist on Tv's "The Apprentice- You're Fired", I was head-hunted into this position based on my e-commerce background to refactor a highly specialist e-commerce web site – the sadly now defunct manbuyspresent.com. With the company all set to go forward and a PR company hired and on standby, the site was in a terrible state with little working correctly months after the launch date had passed. Built on an old and seriously below standard in-house content management system by a team obviously lacking in leadership and clear goals, there was a total lack of coding standards and attention to detail throughout, and a serious mess to sort out with problems ranging from faulty business logic and cross browser issues to gaping security holes.

I was brought in in-house from my own company partly due to this company's bad experience of outsourcing, and partly due to the incredibly complex nature of the site which required constant discussion from all sides. The front end was a full HTML5 interface making extensive use of jQuery and animation. It gave pre-calculated delivery and gift wrap charges, sold via a number of external sellers whose products need to be displayed in rotation but also by relevance to answers to 5 questions. It had to take delivery times into account to the hour, also taking into account products we wanted to promote, whilst still ensuring fairness for all of the sellers. Some of the algorithms that went into this were very complex.

Other jobs ranged from creating an ajax based occasion management system which integrates with facebook allowing users to import their friends and birthdays and receive reminders and gift suggestions, to creating a gift voucher system which integrated with accounting reports for hundreds of sellers calculating various commissions along the way. The entire code base had to be rebuilt to deal with this complexity effectively. The site also made use of extensive JQuery and Ajax which all had to be ripped out and rebuilt as making changes was impossible due to the poorly written and undocumented code.

This was a serious challenge over several months months, due not only to the complexity but also to the time sensitive nature of the job. I am pleased to say that I was able to get it there, although it has since closed. I later worked with the same team on some new IT projects in e-commerce with the team who have another business interest - a chain of restaurants they co-own with chef Marco Pierre White.

Dec 2007 – Jul 2012 **Owner and Lead Programmer at Paragon Digital**

Main skills used: PHP, HTML, CSS, Javascript, JQuery, Mootools, LAMP environment

Working with the Manager of my past role (Delerium Music LTD) as a partner, we set up in business at the end of 2007, essentially running a web design / development agency with a focus on bespoke e-commerce software which integrated with an external fulfilment warehouse (as a partner), and accounting software. Over the course of this time I worked largely on a bespoke PHP framework, shopping cart solution and data/content management system - one which I built and have been using for many years, which is scalable enough to use for everything from small sites to the very complex.

Our main focus was e-commerce beyond the scope of out of the box solutions. A few examples of things we have covered are: Integrating with an external fulfilment company's database, creation of reports to allow batch totals to be imported into Sage for accounting; customized gift voucher actions covering things such as automatically adding free products to orders when certain criteria are met, and creation of a full back-end allowing company staff to place orders into the system and deal with product returns, together with a host of

reporting features - essentially creating a full online database interface, with a fully dynamic multi-window front end built on Mootools javascript framework for usability.

Previous experience can be provided on request.

Further Information: Outside work:

Aside from my work, I have always enjoyed music, and listen to many styles. I learned piano from an early age and have played guitar and drums since my teens and continue to play today. I also enjoy watching movies, gym, swimming, travel and running the dogs!

I have always enjoyed cooking and good food. I love to cook meals from scratch when I get the chance.

Full software development lifecycle experience:

Fully experienced from initial conception and planning, through to hiring teams, initial builds, management / stakeholder / client liaison throughout, completing projects and continuing to oversee for years afterwards. My longest time on one initial greenfield project was over 15 years.

Apps, products, services developed:

Custom front end javascript framework using front end templating for goHenry.co.uk (banking service) connecting to a RESTful API that served JSON data only, allowing people to manage their finances. I also worked on the backend API which was built in Zend Framework 1.1, which itself connected to a number of other services using SOAP and Curl.

Full bespoke e-commerce platform inc. full bespoke product/content management system. Full ERP system including reports, integration with accounts software, fulfilment warehouses etc. Originally written in Perl then ported to PHP.

I have also worked in many specialist areas. Examples are writing software to transcode and serve specific mobile phone video and audio file formats to specific mobile devices (for Mobile Streams PLC); I have written PHP language extensions with new modules written in C++, written software to run both a physical and online library for the University of Notre Dame (MS Access / PHP), written scripts to unpack and modify binaries at bit level (Video/GIF for Mobile Streams again), and written custom templating language which is parsed by PHP/Perl/Python as part of a bespoke CMS/framework.

Business sectors:

My initial experience was gained in e-commerce and content management where I worked for 15 years. More recently I have moved into banking/finance and later penetration testing and cyber security environments.

Team leading and management experience:

I have frequently managed projects, and am used to client facing and management / stakeholder facing roles, requirement gathering, writing specs and producing wireframes, writing documentation, performing code reviews and appraisals.