

# John Le Drew

Open Source Development Consultant and Technical Project Manager

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My experience in the IT industry runs over 11 years working with Unix and Microsoft based technologies such as PHP, Javascript, MongoDB, MySQL, SQL Server, IIS, ASP and Apache.

In December 2002 I started up as an independent IT consultant specialising in delivering and maintaining web applications and also providing more general IT advice to many local SMEs. My main business focus was developing complex online systems including social networking, e-commerce and Intranet sites; acting as a software architect on the projects and as required I would recruit and manage contractors to work with me.

I am passionate about open source software and development and am always looking into new technology; most recently NodeJS and ZeroMQ. I have also published a few simple modules on NPM (twister and slicer). I am a Zend Certified Engineer and was the first Zend Certified Framework Engineer in the UK.

## **Nature Publishing / Senior Developer**

**10 / 2011 – Present**

### **HireMatch.me / Technical Lead**

**05 / 2011 – 10 / 2011**

Working at HireMatch.me I was responsible for the overall technical output of the company, working alongside the founders and another developer to create a cutting edge online recruitment tool.

- Implemented and managed the organisations development methodology based on SCRUM.
- Devised our release management process using semantic versioning and the "git flow" method and tool-set.
- Devised a new technical architecture for the application based around a light weight PHP MVC framework and MongoDB. We also utilised many external web service providers
- Successfully launched the product into beta in September 2011.

## **Número / Senior Web Specialist**

**11 / 2010 – 05 / 2011**

Número develop cutting edge customer interaction management software and I head up their customer facing web development team, also working alongside the professional services teams to deliver custom web portals for key customers including Vertex, Tesco Bank, JD Williams and Yodel.

- Implemented a new development and project management process improving knowledge sharing across disparate teams.
- Implemented Git version control across the professional services department. This included implementing the tools and training the team.
- Developed a new Java API to the bespoke web platform they had developed to allow for greater development flexibility.
- Implemented a custom HR portal for Vertex to be utilised by their 12000 strong international workforce.

## **Ibuildings / Professional Services Consultant**

**05 / 2008 – 11 / 2010**

While working at Ibuildings I have handled the UK based training operations including designing the Ibuildings PHP Curriculum and have designed, written and delivered training courses across the UK.

Handled all pre-sales activity including qualifying prospects, scoping project requirements, estimating and project planning.

Worked on and lead a variety of PHP projects including work for Cable and Wireless, IDEO, BBC, Scott

Wilson, William Hill and Ladbrokes.

Some of the technologies worked with were PHP, MySQL, Drupal, Memcached, Zend Framework, JavaScript, CSS and HTML.

## **SAM Learning / Independent Consultant**

**09 / 2007 – 05 / 2008**

SAM Learning provide online revision tools to over 60% of the schools in the UK, and currently have over 2.4 million active users. I was brought in to consult on the performance and saleability of the site. It soon became aparant that their development team lacked the experience necessary to manage a site of this scale and as a result I have been involved in significantly restructuring both the team and the code base.

- Implemented SVN based source control, devised best practices and trained senior staff on its usage.
- Designed and managed the implementation of various caching strategies on the site. Including using memcached, APC and file based caching. Again this involved the teaching of complex caching concepts to their development team.
- Handled day-to-day management of the team for all performance and scalability related work.
- Optimized the application and server architecture for horizontal scalability.
- Assisted in the recruitment of a UK based technical manager.

While working with SAM Learning I have used PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, memcached and APC.

## **GMPTE / Software Engineer**

**10 / 2007 – 01 / 2008**

Working with the IT Manager and a business analyst I was tasked with designing and developing a complex Intranet system for generating KPI reports for Manchester's Metrolink tram service. The input data came from various sources (CSV, Access and Excel) and first had to be imported into their SQL Server database. This was then checked for errors the PDF reports were generated from this clean data. All of this was fronted with a complex AJAX user interface giving timely access to all reports.

Technologies used were PHP5, SQL Server, JavaScript (and jQuery), XHTML and CSS.

## **Now Wash Your Hands / Software Engineer**

**09 / 2007 – 10 / 2007**

Initially brought in to consult on building a social networking site for Future Publishing, I went on to develop from scratch a scalable object-oriented, MVC web application framework that formed the core of the site and will be used as a springboard in all future Now Wash Your Hands PHP5 projects.

I was working with Object Oriented PHP5 and MySQL within the typical LAMP stack.

## **Junction YK / Technical Manager**

**04 / 2007 – 08 / 2007**

Working with Junction YK on a public sector project my main role was to create a detailed user focused specification of the project, asses the project's technical requirements and with my team; build the platform.

We were tasked by the North West RDA to create a large content driven business social network for the north west business community. Taking the form of an online magazine presenting content created by the editorial team (both written and streaming video and audio) users can interact with the content via the social network. The majority of my role consisted of developing the site platform ready to receive the content. I also designed an intricate and accessible AJAX interface. During my time there I recruited and managed two web developers.

The site made use of many different technologies, namely PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, XML, XSLT, ActionScript and Flash Media Server / Red 5.

## **TBWA\ MANCHESTER / Software Engineer**

**07 / 2006 – 04 / 2007**

Working with open source technologies and being given the ability to completely immerse myself in upcoming online technologies and trends; I have been able to expand my skills and experience significantly.

The main focus of my work was running and managing the development of the award winning site [www.redrow.co.uk](http://www.redrow.co.uk), this included developing an advanced AJAX powered CMS that allows their marketing team the freedom and simplicity of editing the content 'in-place' on the page. The site was written entirely in PHP5 and the data stored in a MySQL database. Other technologies used extensively were XML, SOAP and JavaScript. I also managed two front end web developers while working on this project.

As well as my work with Redrow Homes, I have also enjoyed working on the Affinity Cards Ltd group of sites, including [www.talksportcard.co.uk](http://www.talksportcard.co.uk) and [www.confetticard.co.uk](http://www.confetticard.co.uk).

## **KMP Associates Ltd. / Software Engineer**

**06 / 2006 – 07 / 2006**

Working with mainly with Microsoft technologies - ASP.NET / C# and some classic ASP - I have worked on various client websites. The Capital Incentives site involved integrating an existing design from an external design agency to the ActivEdition content management system, written in classic ASP.

The second project I was involved in was developing the Stanley Casinos main website, working with the designs created by the KMP design team I had to develop and complete KMP's internally developed CMS, integrating the design and ensuring the site was put live on deadline. This was written entirely in C#.NET using OOP methodologies.

## **Netherside Hall School / Volunteer**

**11 / 2005 – 06 / 2006**

After closing my own company I wanted to do something both completely different and having grown up myself with dyslexia I decided to volunteer at Netherside School in North Yorkshire, a residential school for secondary age boys with learning difficulties.

While working at Netherside I was able to devise and run various creative workshops with the children, covering digital sound production, drama and film making. I also assisted with the schools IT systems and from the many dormant aging and mostly unused systems created an IT suite using Ubuntu Linux.

Netherside was one of the most challenging roles I have ever undertaken but also the most rewarding.

## **Independent IT Consultant**

**12 / 2002 – 11 / 2005**

Taking many short contracts since December 2002 has enabled me to develop an ability to concentrate on the job in hand and draw on the variety of skills required in projects which have involved me in administration, web design, project management etc. I have worked for example for: The London School of Puppetry, Nissan, GlaxoSmithKline, Oliis Design, TheBreakfastClub and Co-op Funeral Care.

Working as an independent consultant I had to adapt and work with many different technologies, either in a development, administrative or consultancy capacity. These include the Microsoft technologies (ASP.NET, Visual Basic, C#, Classic ASP, VB Script, SQL Server etc.) and the Open Source technologies (PHP, Perl, Python, MySQL, PostgreSQL etc.) both of which I have used continually while working independently.

Much of my work with the Microsoft technologies - other than the more involved projects detailed below - was the maintenance of many ASP (classic and .NET) related sites on a continual basis for many of my clients including Frontline Print and Marketing and Co-op Funeral Care. Although I work mainly in Visual Basic, I have also been able to transpose my skills in other C++ based languages to coding in C#.NET as well, as demonstrated in my work with GlaxoSmithKline. My ability to adapt and transfer my skills to work with new technologies and in varying environments has been something that has been crucial to all my work within the IT industry.

Some projects I have been involved in are detailed below.

## **World Nuclear Association**

**09 / 2005 - 04 / 2006**

**Consultancy / Blog**

After being approached by their director of public communications, I joined their team as lead technical consultant developing a group blog solution designed to initiate debate within the nuclear energy community on the current issues affecting it. The World Nuclear Association is a global organisation seeking to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy as a sustainable energy source. Its members are responsible for some 90% of the world's nuclear-generated electricity.

The main bulk of the work involved training both their senior management team and the various industry commentators in using the blogging software. The other aspect of the work involved customising the Blogger.com software for their requirements. The main skills used were XHTML, XML, CSS and JavaScript.

## **ASAP Couriers**

**01 / 2004 - 06 / 2005**

**Intranet / CRM**

Working closely with management and department heads I designed, implemented their Intranet which supports all aspects of the companies day to day operations and handles over 25 000 orders a month. This also fully integrates with their online solution allowing customers to place and have immediate access the live status of orders as well as detailed historical data.

The majority of the system was developed using MySQL, PHP, XHTML, XML and XSL and but also makes extensive use of JavaScript and Flash / ActionScript within some modules. Flash was used to create various interfaces and was integrated with PHP using SOAP technology. This allowed for a highly responsive interface allowing the system to keep pace with the day to day operations of the company.

Their online solution was developed working closely with their clients who include, Deloitte, Nationwide, O2 and Ulster Bank.

## **site91.com**

**01 / 2004 - 11 / 2005**

**e-commerce**

After developing a simple e-commerce solution for an earlier client I was approached by site91 to implement a similar solution for there them. The site had to allow them to fully manage their online business via a simple Content Management System.

The core technologies used were PHP and MySQL with various interface elements implemented using JavaScript.

The site currently generates over £20 000 / week in revenue and takes over 100 000 hits per day.

## **Full-Time Employment**

### **Host Europe PLC / Web Developer**

**09 / 2001 – 11 / 2002**

My initial role was Web Developer for Host Europe's London base. This involved developing various scripts using PHP, MySQL, Perl, VBS / WSH, ASP, ADSI and Bash.

- Designed and implemented a web-based front-end for backup scheduling and administration using PHP and MySQL for initially the twenty virtual ( NT / Linux ) servers and then the further one thousand plus servers that were included in our backup administration plan. This application had to be fully integrated into the company Intranet.
- Developed a web-based stock tracking system using PHP, Perl and MySQL that tracked the three thousand or more stock items that are used each day at Host Europe. This involved the use of bar code recognition for tracking asset locations. Once this was established, it was integrated into the company Intranet and used across the group.
- Started an inter-departmental training scheme based on various MS and Linux Internet technologies and how to support them. This including basic ASP, PHP and SQL debugging and troubleshooting IIS,

SQL Server and Linux/Apache.

- Managed all MS SQL Servers at the London base, both internal and customer facing.
- MS technologies customer support team leader for five first line customer support technicians.

## Lynx Internet Solutions / Web Developer

01 / 2000 – 09 / 2001

My main role involved working within a small team of developers on the company e-commerce application.

This gave me experience of many Microsoft development tools including Visual Basic 5 / 6 and ASP, we also made use of SVN for version control that I implemented and administered. Additionally, I handled all internal network administration.

- Managed the migration of the e-commerce application over from solely Microsoft to Linux based technologies to prepare for ISP roll out. This used all my ASP, PHP, MySQL and SQL Server skills to achieve a finished product.
- Administered the company IIS 4 / 5 web-servers and oversaw the migration from NT 4.0 to Windows 2000 and also the MS SQL 7 Server and later its migration to SQL Server 2000.

## Skills Summary

Skill	Level
PHP 4 / 5 / 5.3	Expert
XHTML / HTML 5	Expert
CSS2 / 3	Expert
Object Oriented Programming and Software Design	Expert
JavaScript / DHTML / AJAX (jQuery + Prototype)	Expert
SQL / MySQL / SQL Server / PostgreSQL / Oracle	Expert
Subversion (SVN) Source Control	Expert
Git / Distributed Version Control	Expert
Linux (Debian, Gentoo, RedHat, Ubuntu)	Expert
Apache 1.3 / 2	Expert
Java	Intermediate
NoSQL (MongoDB / CouchDB)	Intermediate
W3C Accessibility Guidelines / WAI / WCAG	Intermediate
XML / XSL / XSLT / XPath / Xquery / Schema / DTD	Intermediate
Search Engine Optimization (SEO)	Intermediate