

# Jon Ellis-Jones

Software Development Engineer ✉ [jontce@gmail.com](mailto:jontce@gmail.com)



I am a highly motivated polyglot Software Development Engineer.

## EXPERIENCE

### Amazon

Software Development Engineer

November 2016 – Present

Engineering voice and advanced natural user interface shopping experiences for Alexa as part of the Product Advisor team based in London. Worked on highly-scalable and available services that enrich voice shopping journeys by providing contextual information about products. Also supplemented the linguistic/natural language understanding abilities of Alexa in the shopping domain.

Tech: Java 8, AWS, Stanford CoreNLP.

### Microsoft

Software Development Engineer

April 2012 – November 2016

Worked within a scrum-practicing agile environment for Skype's commerce team, where I developed robust, highly-available, scalable web applications and RESTful APIs.

Hired to Tallinn, Estonia to work within the Billing & Payments teams. Responsibilities revolved around payment integration with partners, user order delivery and service provisioning, and implementing features in Skype's payment flows.

Transferred to London, UK to work within the Products team. Focus then shifted towards developing Skype's product catalogue and basket, and iterating on Skype's user-facing commercial web properties (including Skype Premium, Skype Credit, and Skype Subscriptions)

### Creative Insight

Senior Software Developer

March 2010 – April 2012

Managed a team of developers at a digital creative agency. Modernised the working practices by introducing a structured methodology that advocated version control, DRY principles and code reuse (via introduction of a HMVC framework) and management of project schedules within the studio.

Authored an internal project management tool to track tasks and operator time that also automated some common paperwork, freeing up the director's time.

Additional to my management responsibilities, I worked as a Software Development Engineer & as a Service Engineer, authoring web applications and maintaining the company's internal and remote Linux servers.

### Kaweb

Web Developer

November 2006 – March 2010

Worked as a full-stack developer for a successful digital marketing agency.

Co-wrote a modular car insurance quotation engine; At peak, it produced over 1.1 million quotes per month via an XML API developed for a client who were a factor in the UK insurance market. The API was consumed by many notable 'price

comparison' websites, such as *Confused.com*, *Go Compare* and *MoneySupermarket*.

Authored the company's bespoke e-commerce software. Implemented the solution for several high 'average order value' businesses (designer clothes, spa goods, high-end wallpaper/furnishings). The role also involved Service Engineering responsibilities such as maintaining the company intranet & remote co-located Linux & Windows servers in London.

## Studio 2 Online

Web Developer

September 2004 – September 2005

Joined as a member of a team of engineers developing a suite of modular web applications for small & medium enterprises. The suite included a content management system, a customer relationship management system, account management and automated domain registration. Engineered the project over several design meetings with business owners, producing a full set of UML and ERDs, and contributed a large proportion of the code.

Part of the tooling automated the process of domain registration using PGP-signed emails in order to increase studio efficiency. The resulting code was entered into a contest. As a result, I won a lifetime licence for the *Zend Studio* IDE.

## Gaijin Design

Web Developer

July 2002 – September 2004

Worked as the lead programmer for an Adobe® Flash-heavy design company in Leicester, mainly implementing server-side code & managing databases.

Notable projects included:

- *Sony Music Group*  
A 'dancing' rhythm-action game for "Atomic Kitten" with scoreboard to promote a new single release
- *British Red Cross*  
A highly accessible website for children with learning difficulties and their parents. The site featured a child-friendly graphical chat room using a Java-based socket server.
- *OCB Medical*  
Development of an e-learning examination portal for medical students studying '*Nebulisation*'.
- **Leicestershire County Council**  
A content-management system for a website aimed at school children about garden wildlife and promoting recycling within Leicestershire.

## EDUCATION

### University of Leicester

2.1 BSc Computer Science (Hons)

September 2002 – July 2006

Sat a BCS-accredited course encompassing all aspects of modern Computer Science, including modules in Logic Programming, Database Theory, Algorithms and Data Structures, Object Orientation in C++ and Web Technologies; For the dissertation segment of my degree I produced an Object-Orientated social networking tool based around the concept of 'grouped material collections', mining data from Amazon web services. The project was given a 'first' classification.

### Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

## SELECTED PROFICIENCIES

Over the years I have been exposed to all sorts of languages, technologies, stacks and tools. Here is a non-exhaustive list of some my proficiencies:

### ^ **Software Engineering**

- ^ Extensive experience with PHP and associated ecosystems
- ^ Extensive experience with Java and associated ecosystems
- ^ Extensive experience with JavaScript ES3 - ES5 and associated ecosystem
- ^ Extensive experience with python2/python3
- ^ Build systems utilising Maven, Apt, NPM/grunt, QuickBuild, Chef, Ant and Nexus
- ^ API micro-services development (JSON, REST, XML-RPC, SOAP), both consumption and development of
- ^ Exposure to C#.NET, C++, Scala and ruby

### ^ **Web Application Development**

- ^ HTML5, CSS3 (SASS), JavaScript (require/AMD, jQuery, underscore, knockout, backbone, YUI), AJAX
- ^ HMVC paradigm – experienced with common frameworks (CodeIgniter, Laravel, Symfony, Zend)
- ^ Developing responsive layouts for mobile, tablet and desktop – “mobile-first” mindset
- ^ Thorough understanding of SEO, microformats, W3C WAI-ARIA & screen readers

### ^ **Databases & Storage**

- ^ Extensive experience with database design. MySQL, PostgreSQL (including plpgsql), sqlite3, ODBC
- ^ Experience of development with NoSQL technologies (Azure DocumentDB, dynamo)
- ^ Understanding of commonly used models such as ORM, Data Mapping, (de)normalisation & Active Record
- ^ Full-text searching with Sphinx and Lucene. Key-value storage with Redis

### ^ **Methodology**

- ^ Advocate of agile (scrum), continuous integration. Experienced Scrum Master
- ^ Planning via UML, ERDs, Gantt & use-cases. Experienced with tools such as JIRA, Confluence, TRAC
- ^ Version control (git, mercurial, subversion, cvs). Strong unit testing abilities. TTD/BDD

### ^ **Miscellaneous**

- ^ Knowledgeable about DNS, email MTAs/SPF/RBLs & GNU/Linux system admin (Debian & CentOS)
- ^ Sharp eye for detail!

## PERSONAL

- ^ British Citizen, **Birth date** - 28<sup>th</sup> December 1983. Clean UK driving licence. Non-smoker
- ^ Active member of the British Computer Society (MBCS, 2008 onwards)

^ Interests: reading, single-track mountain biking, travel, skiing, racquet sports, graphic art, programming

## LINKS

^ Github: <https://github.com/jonnu>

^ Bitbucket: <https://bitbucket.org/jonnu>

^ LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/jonellisjones>

^ StackOverflow: <http://stackoverflow.com/users/651338/jonnu>