CURRICULUM VITAE
Christopher Mark Buckley M.Sc. (Dunelm)

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SUMMARY

An accomplished technology leader and mentor with over 16 years' experience driving large-scale engineering transformations and leading high-performing teams. Proven ability to define and execute technical strategies, ensure engineering excellence and build highly available, fault-tolerant systems. Excellent hands-on experience with a strong architecture and engineering background; skilled at communicating with clients and stakeholders at all organisational levels in fast-paced agile businesses. Keen advocate of open-source technologies and communities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of Engineering   2025–Present
SmartSearch   *Ilkley, West Yorkshire*

- Lead and scale the engineering team, establishing a high-performance culture
- Develop & execute technical strategy & innovation in collaboration with executive leadership
- Drive technical excellence through best practices in software delivery, code quality, testing and deployment
- Own the engineering roadmap, resource allocation and delivery schedules
- Manage budgets, resource planning and vendor relationships

Principal Consultant   2022–2025
Answer Digital   *Leeds, West Yorkshire*

- Defined tech strategy for architecture & engineering capabilities, client engagement & account management with clients across healthcare, financial services & retail sectors
- Mentor for senior architects & engineers supporting individual career paths & capability leadership
- Defined company-wide mission, roadmap & progression plans with heads of capability
- Ownership of internal technical operations, ensuring organisational maturity & operational excellence
- Experienced in delivering tech strategy, M&A technical due diligence, ISO 27001 governance

Interim CTPO, Preventx

- Ownership, management and execution of the Preventx technology strategy
- Overall responsibility for the use of technology within Preventx, including the platform, infrastructure, operations & quality management
- Responsible for IT budget, including forecasting, allocation, and expenditure tracking
- Product strategy and alignment of commercial aspirations with technical capabilities
- Senior leadership, mentorship & motivation of a blended technical team
- Fostered a culture of innovation and collaboration, representing the technical team at board level

Engineering Lead, Scottish Friendly Assurance

- Managed a blended engineering team distributed across multiple workstreams & locations
- Support development & assurance testing for a successful multi-year platform upgrade & introduction of Consumer Duty
- Delivered organisation digital maturity improvements for SDLC, software governance, Continuous Integration & ways of working

Principal Architect, Strike

· Architecture lead for Strike during acquisition of Purplebricks
· Technical appraisal of existing technology platforms, services & suppliers to inform target operating model, consolidated target landscape, change roadmap & risk assessment for accelerated re-launch under a single brand & proposition

Lead Architect, NHS England

· Architect & Account Manager for NHS COVID Pass programme
· Supported creation of target operating model for service transition within NHS, aligning commercials, policy & technical governance
· Responsible for Technical Design Authority process overseeing programme change
· Led the initiative to embed SDLC best practices & release COVID Pass source code to the public

Senior Solutions Architect   2017–2022
Sky Betting & Gaming   *Leeds, West Yorkshire*

· Launched a new games content aggregation platform with teams across the Flutter group, reducing third-party revenue share and driving platform independence
· Pioneered real-time Kafka-driven data hub strategy to standardise communication with Data teams
· Incident Commander providing measured support to on-call teams during incidents and major events
· Engaged with heads of technology, product and marketing to align business and technical strategy
· Oversaw compliance initiatives including GDPR, PCI DSS and vulnerability management
· Technical contact for external suppliers providing supporting services and delivery capability
· Mentor to other architects and engineers in teams across gaming products and services

Engineering Manager   2015–2017
Sky Betting & Gaming   *Leeds, West Yorkshire*

· Built & led multiple agile engineering teams delivering products and services in the Gaming sector
· Provided leadership, management & coaching for over 40 full-stack Software, Test and Platform Engineers
· Implemented and communicated SDLC for governance of continuous delivery and operational support
· Managed third-party vendor relationships with Architects and Service Delivery Managers
· Responsible for recruitment and retention of diverse-skill teams working closely with Talent Recruiters
· Championed corporate open-source contribution and technical community involvement

Principal Engineer   2012–2015
Sky Betting & Gaming   *Leeds, West Yorkshire*

· Technical lead for Sky Poker in-house LAMP development team
· Delivery and maintenance of JavaScript poker application integrating with third-party engine
· Technical liaison for third-party supplier integration and software architecture
· Defined product roadmap and strategic direction with Director of Product
· Collaborated with Platform and Service Operations teams to ensure high availability
· Worked with Architects to evolve company technical roadmap

Senior Software Engineer   2009–2012
Everything Everywhere   *Darlington, County Durham*

· Delivered CSAT tooling & SMS-based PHP applications using Zend Framework & ActiveMQ
· End-to-end accountability for key projects from design to launch
· Maintained Continuous Integration and code analysis tools
· Design authority and development of standards for RESTful Web services
· Involvement with team recruitment process (interviewing / technical tests)

Developer   2007–2009
Vebra Solutions   *Pocklington, North Yorkshire*

· Development of PHP property management system with JavaScript Web frontend
· Refactoring of existing implementation for cross-browser compatibility
· Maintenance of LAMP platform, CVS repository, coding standards and Bugzilla

QUALIFICATIONS

BPSS & SC Clearance   January 2023
UKSV

Manager HD Programme   April 2015
Institute of Leadership & Management

Practitioner in Enterprise & Solution Architecture   December 2013
British Computer Society

Master of Science (Research)   2006–2009
Faculty of Science   *University of Durham*

· Thesis: "Guessing Numbers Based on Network Routing Capacity"

Bachelor of Science   2003–2006
College of St. Hild and St. Bede   *University of Durham*

· Upper Second-Class Honours (2:1)
· B.Sc. Natural Sciences (Computer Science & Mathematics)

PERSONAL INTERESTS

· Programming (contribution to a number of open-source projects)
· Rock climbing
· Snowboarding
· Cycling / mountain biking
· Languages (Polish, French)
· Music (guitar, live music events)