

James Houghton

Experienced senior software engineer with over 10 years experience delivering resilient solutions across a wide range of industries. While my professional background is in PHP and Laravel, I've recently moved my focus to Go, building several personal projects that demonstrate my strong proficiency in the language. I am a proactive and collaborative developer who has delivered significant improvements to the products at my current role at CWP. Looking for a remote/hybrid Software Engineer role where I can grow my Go expertise.

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EXPERIENCE

The Changing Workplace, Haywards Heath — Senior Software Engineer (Fully remote since 2020)

Small company (~40 people) which provides Enterprise level software to manage Corporate real estate portfolios. Used by some of the world's largest companies.

Programming Languages: PHP, SQL Server, Typescript, CSS, Coldfusion

Frameworks/software: Laravel, VueJS, PHPUnit, Elasticsearch, Git version control, Docker

September 2019 - PRESENT

- Led a significant refactor to remove Elasticsearch from our system. Through the addition of indexes and schema restructuring, I was able to completely replace Elasticsearch while maintaining a similar user experience. As a result of this work, our deployments have become 75% faster and infrastructure resources have been freed.
- Replaced the custom authentication system with a more secure solution which followed the best practices of the Laravel framework. Not only was the new approach more secure for our users, I was also able to both improve the speed of the application (by removing redundant network requests) and remove a significant amount of legacy Coldfusion code (~10,000 LOC), leading to both a better user and developer experience.
- Co-led the redesign and rebuild of our internal time management web app with my focus being on the backend architecture, and database design. We had full autonomy of the project taking it from the initial whiteboard planning through to the build and deployment. The system launched on schedule and has been running successfully for over 2 years.
- Collaborated within my team to architect and build a new flexible reporting tool allowing clients to create their own reports on historical data. The solution leveraged a priority queue system to move the processing of larger reports to the background providing a better user experience along with a reduced load on the server.
- Spearheaded the adoption of automated testing, greatly improving the stability and resilience of the platform. We now have a test suite consisting of unit, integration and feature tests that performs >6,000 assertions (using a local testing DB running through Docker) with code coverage of >80% for all new modules.
- Provide support and feedback to other members of the team through PR reviews and pair programming.

British Society for Proteome Research — Freelance

Programming Languages: PHP, MySQL, Javascript, CSS

Frameworks/software: Laravel, Git version control

2019

- Leveraged my knowledge of application and relational database design to build a reliable web app allowing users to easily find fellow proteomic research and service groups in industry and academia. To date it is used widely across groups in the UK and mainland Europe.

Antropy, Crawley — Web Developer

Small web agency (< 10 people) with a primary focus on E-commerce sites.

Programming Languages: PHP, MySQL, Javascript, CSS

Platforms: Opencart, Wordpress, Concrete5, Magento, Shopify

January 2015 - September 2019

- Performed security audits, identifying vulnerabilities as well as performing remedial work.
- Identified and fixed performance bottlenecks, specifically through database changes and backend code improvements in order to optimize clients site performance.
- Mentored junior developers with daily catch ups and code reviews.

Cubic Transportation, Redhill — Workshop Engineer

International company. Worked in a team consisting of ~40 people, primarily responsible for fixing oyster card readers in a workshop environment.

November 2011 - December 2014

- Created custom BASH scripts to quickly triage common issues presenting in oyster card readers, allowing them to be assigned to engineers for immediate repair.

EDUCATION

University of Leeds, UK — BSc Physics with Astrophysics

September 2007 - July 2011

Woodhouse Grove School

September 2000 - July 2007

PERSONAL PROJECTS

Meal Planner

<https://github.com/jameswhoughton/meals> | Go

Meal planning application designed to assist with the weekly food shop.

- Applied a hexagonal architectural structure to ensure code is easily testable, extendible and maintainable.
- Designed contract tests to ensure consistent behaviour across repository implementations (in memory and MySQL). Allowing me to confidently use in-memory repositories for my tests, greatly improving their performance.
- Implemented a graceful shutdown process through the use of context propagation, allowing open requests to the server and DB queries time to finish processing.

Migrate

<https://github.com/jameswhoughton/migrate> | Go

Flexible database migration tool. Supports both migrations and rollbacks

- Leveraged Go interfaces to make the tool DBMS agnostic.
- Designed to be flexible and extendable to fit with a wide range of deployment workflows.

Timetracker

https://github.com/jameswhoughton/timetracker_cli | Go

Lightweight CLI tool to manage my time throughout the day.

- Used the spf13/cobra library to build a clean and flexible command structure.