

James Valentine

Insightful IT professional with strategic vision, providing intelligent Linux and infrastructure support to enterprise.

+44 (0)7971 287041 jdvalentine@gmail.com

In the last 11 years I have worked with multidisciplinary teams in the UK and overseas to design, develop, deploy and maintain complex, autoscaling business systems (Operations, CMS, Customer Service, high volume campaign management) involving both cloud infrastructure and on prem resources. Through my consultancy firm, I have sold my own PHP-based Business Management System which supports a wide range of organisational processes and is currently in use in the training, marketing and outsource/contractor management fields. I have sharp intuition into requirements extraction and strategy and retain engineering authority with recent hands-on technical experience. I am a sworn generalist with an enthusiasm for learning new technologies and philosophies and the confidence to analyse, plan, then execute major changes to production systems. I confidently mentor junior colleagues. Looking for Solutions Architecture roles which will use my newly-discovered interest in Enterprise Architecture and the TOGAF 9 standard, a certification I am working towards through self study.

Technologies

- Cloud Platforms: AWS (10 years), some GCP
- DevOps Tooling: Git, Docker, Maven
- Programming Languages: PHP (14 years), SQL (14 years), SAS (6 years), Bash (7 years)
- BI Systems: WPS (SAS clone), Matillion ETL, Periscope Data
- OS Administration: Debian, Redhat/CentOS, Ubuntu Linux

Engagements

2019–present: **Brandon Cross**, *Role:* Senior Consultant. Requirements gathering and business analysis feeding into a large-scale review of the legacy ERP system of a major UK Contract Electronics Manufacturer. This led to UI/UX workshops and a comprehensive report into replacement options. The proof of concept of our recommendation, a NodeJS server and client side implementation, is ongoing. I have advisory involvement currently, on a contract basis.

2009–2019: **Universal Mobile Enterprises Limited**, *Role:* fractional CTO. Senior role in this UK mobile content service provider, resulting in growth to over £10m annual revenue and acquisition in 2017 by Frankfurt-listed CLIQ Digital AG in July 2017. Cloud infrastructure, Linux platform support and tuning, software requirements analysis, design, ops support and dev team management (some overseas). Responsible for custom-built Customer Service and marketing campaign management platforms and engaging with stakeholders to see that their needs are met. Also a bespoke Business Intelligence platform, implementation and integration based on a WPS (SAS

clone) back-end. Launched in 2015, allows fast, detailed, inexpensive reporting on a large, constantly updated dataset (7m events per day) via a responsive web front end.

2015: Mattingly Plumbing, *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP, Linux VM: Field survey tool for a regional plumbing company. Integrated front-end Javascript input from another agency. Browser based, working on a tablet and storing results locally when offline (out of 3G signal area) for later synchronisation with the database. Exports into their bespoke quotation generator. Has reduced waste and time to quote.

2013–present: Southampton University, *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP, Linux VM: Developed a Business Management System with CRM focus and per-contact access restrictions for the Business School, designed to improve the business development process when several departments are involved. In 2018 Q1: oversaw major enhancements to bring verifiable GDPR compliance. Provided GDPR consultancy to the ExecEd team.

2012–2015: AJW Limited, *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP, Linux VM: Business Management System for purchase order approval in the field, for a major landscaping contractor working for Sodexo and Thames Water. Reduced unexpected expenditure by preventing unauthorised orders.

2014: LDC (Lloyds Bank), *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP: Developed an implementation of the SHAPE study with Humphrey Walters of Lloyd’s private equity wing. Used by the Academy of Chief Executives to profile 70 CEOs prior to a London event. Based on modified market research tool LimeSurvey with bespoke reporting process and PDF deliverables.

2009–2016: Web4Law Ltd., *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP, Linux: Solicitors Regulation Authority-approved CPD e-learning and assessment platform based on Moodle with custom PDF proforma invoicing feature. Enhanced the client’s product portfolio and market standing.

2008–2017: ProfitAbility Business Simulations Ltd., *Role:* External consultant, *Tools:* PHP, Linux: Developed their training course management system for a client operating internationally, providing in-person business simulation training around the world for multinationals including Diageo and Nestlé.

2004–2010: Dynamic website design and implementation for a variety of UK-based firms in sectors ranging from manufacturing, import/export, law, finance and others.

Skills

- *Solutions Architecture:* Requirements analysis, strategic planning, implementation advice, software integration– strong systems thinking and intuition born of years of exposure. Full stack software development background yet still able to engage non-technical stakeholders. Communicating business objectives to technical experts as a respected digital native. In reverse, can explain technical options to commercial specialists to assist in decision making.
- *Cloud infrastructure management:* AWS specialist – Elastic Beanstalk (Multicontainer Docker), EC2 and Elastic Load Balancer, RDS (Aurora and MySQL), Redshift (Postgres); Elasticache (Redis), Security Groups and IAM, Firewalling, routing, cost reduction and account manager liaison. Managed a £200k+/year AWS account.

- Operations: Git, Maven, SSH, security and hardening, training staff in DevOps methodologies. 3rd party tools including Wildbit Beanstalk for Git hosting, custom deployment pipelines written in Bash for large-scale JavaEE microservice implementations, local Maven repos, Java profiling (jProfiler). Troubleshooting.
- *Overseas outsource management*: particular experience of managing staff in the Bulgarian and Nepalese markets with cultural sensitivity – contacts retained. Personal experience of Bulgarian corporate law including incorporating, resourcing and transferring a EOOD (a Bulgarian limited company).
- *Software development management*: Excellent communication, delegation, code review and quality improvement, reporting. Can read and debug Java and other C-like languages. Can keep a team challenged and motivated. Comfortable with agile approaches/scrum or waterfall as well as rapid prototyping and MVP to market. Tools: Confluence and Jira.
- *Linux Systems Administration*: Server tuning, hardening, Open Source tools (Apache, NGINX as reverse proxy, Tomcat, OpenVPN). Interest at an enthusiast level as well – Linux on the desktop, kernel recompilation, have built Asterisk PABX VoIP telephone systems and dialplans, experimented with SIP handphones, for example. Experienced troubleshooter.
- *Monitoring*: Zabbix, 3rd party hosted tools, Netdata, Nagios. Managed and resourced a £17k annual 24/7 3rd party support contract.

Education

2002–2005: University of Exeter, Degree, LLB (hons) Exon. (Bachelor of Laws)

2:2 degree with honours in Law with particular interest in Contract Law, Public International and European Union Law.

1996–2002: Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School, Marlow

A-Levels: Computing: **A**, Music: **B**, German: **B**, Business: **B**. **GCSEs**: 7 at **A★**, 2 at **A**, 1 at **B**

Interests

- Member of the Rotary Club with a special personal interest in polio eradication including overseas work in India.
- Involved with the Southampton University Executive Learning Partnership, an initiative of the Business School.
- International travel.
- Dancing (Argentine tango), pianist, singer.
- Narrowboating, powerboating, sailing.

Availability

I am available immediately for both project-based and long-term engagements. I can work inside or outside IR35 through my own limited company as required. Please contact me to discuss your opportunity.