

Benjamin (Ben) Howe

ben@beh.uk | www.beh.uk

An adaptable developer with experience in a variety of languages seeking a role as an engineer within an agile team. In his spare time, he enjoys learning new technologies and working on various side projects.

Professional Experience

American Express – Engineer

Since 2018

- Graduate rotations (6 months): Loyalty, Cross-Border Payments, and Application Security.
- Used various languages (Java, Kotlin, React, etc.) and tools (Git, Maven, Cucumber, etc.) within scrum teams. Worked with product owners to size user stories and refine backlogs.
- Cleaned code and added additional tests to improve reliability and development speed.
- Created and implemented RFCs to enable the deployment of changes to production.
- Designed a technical test for apprentice candidates, to ensure that all discovery day attendees have strong technical ability. Chaired a panel to review submissions.
- Participated in the UK Product Summit Dream Team twice, leading ~20 graduates in 2019.
- Mentored a new graduate as they joined the team, helping them to settle into Amex.
- Trained colleagues in new technologies, including Java, Jenkins, and BDD.

University of Reading – Student Demonstrator

2017–18

- Contributed to various first- and second-year lab sessions, including authorising marks.

Junction11 Radio – Head of Technology

2016–17

- Developed, documented, and maintained the entire technology stack.
- Assisted University IT services in enabling IPv6 throughout the studio.

Krystal Hosting – Software Engineer (Summer Intern)

2017

- Developed automated self-service tools to mitigate repetitive support tickets.

American Express – First Foundry Analyst, Technology (Summer Intern)

2016

- Became an internal expert on the Elastic Stack and helped lead an internal hack day.
- Created and deployed to production a Kibana dashboard to monitor SLA compliance.

Goldman Sachs – Spring Intern, Technology

2016

- Designed an iOS application as a group using internal tools; won prize for “Best Team”.

Mythic Beasts – Software Developer

2014–15

- Wrote a modular Perl script to detect WordPress blogs with unpatched security holes.
- Led a research project on HHVM¹; increased the transactions per second by 600%.

Wolfpack Fashion – Director of IT

2012–13

- Formed a start-up selling custom clothing as part of the Young Enterprise scheme.
- Set up a website and online store, ensuring compliance with PCI-DSS.
- Won multiple awards including Best Young Enterprise Company and Best IT.

¹ www.mythic-beasts.com/blog/2014/11/14/hiphop-and-wordpress-if-youre-tired-of-tea-then-youre-tired-of-life

Education

University University of Reading: BSc (Hons) Computer Science, first-class honours.

Achieved the RED award (employability skills certificate) three times.

A Levels Computing, A; Physics, B; Mathematics, C; General Studies (AS), A.

EPQ: "A ciphertext-only attack on classical substitution ciphers in Python", Distinction.

Projects

- **ip6on.ly (work in progress)**: a tool written in Node.js which uses Puppeteer and Chromium to easily verify whether websites render as expected when loaded over an IPv6-only connection.
- **YAMM**: a money manager consisting of a Java application which exposed an API for a web-GUI to consume. Transaction data was automatically scraped, with credentials encrypted using AES.
- **ShareLive**: a web application enabling multiple users to listen to the same music at the same time and create a shared playlist. Won the award for Best Use of Pusher at BrumHack 5.0.
- **Library API**: a Python module compatible with various library systems, allowing access to the catalogue and the user's account. Used while studying to automatically renew books and avoid fines. Won the award for Best Developer Tool (presented by GitHub) at BrumHack 4.0.
- **Explain To Us**: my project at the Young Rewired State Festival of Code in 2014. A static website (regularly updated via cron) which uses the HTML5 MediaStream API to invite parliamentarians to upload a short video to explain their private member's bill(s). Nominated for Best in Show.
- **OCR Computing**: a revision website written while studying my A Levels. As of October 2017, it had been viewed approximately 500,000 times by 85,000 unique users from over 150 countries.

Wider Community Involvement

The Boys' Brigade – Lieutenant and Member of the England Regional Committee Since 2010

- Represented the Southern District at a regional level.
- Helped the Brigade to execute the regional workplan.

Reading University Students' Union – Computer Science Course Representative 2016–18

- Elected chair of the Staff–Student Liaison Committee and represented the student body on the course Board of Studies and School Board of Teaching and Learning.
- Regularly and tactfully shared student feedback with module conveners.

R.U. Not Drinking Much? Society – President 2016–18

- Organised regular events to give students a alternative to alcohol-oriented socialising.
- Chaired committee meetings and liaised with external parties to arrange funding.

R.U. Hacking? Society – Treasurer 2016–17

- Formed part of the founding committee to create a hackathon society.
- Built relationships with organisations to make events free and to fund food and prizes.

FIRST Stop – Volunteer (First-Aid Trained) 2015–18

- Worked with police and paramedics to reduce the effect of the night-time economy on A&E.