

## Software Engineer

8 years experience. Spent ~half that time on web dev at startups, the rest on a mish-mash of product design, business development, management, DevOps, machine learning, accelerated computing and basic research. Made my own startup a few years ago, sold it.

Most my mental models are ecology-themed, I pay lots of attention to the relationships between things, their relative balance, and how information flows through them. It's a good mindset for managing complexity. Business frameworks that synergise with it include Wardley Mapping, Cynefin and Agile.

## Experience

### Sabbatical (November 2020 to Present)

Lots of study. Subjects including history, physics, philosophy, computer science, communication and microbiology.

- Made an 8-bit computer from scratch
- Created the most-advanced GPGPU library available for the web today ([webglc](#))
- Found three new ways to simulate quantum fields

### Consultant for Various Employers (December 2019 to November 2020)

- Led a team of four people to create an insight dashboard for a company that manages 1000-ish car parks
- Created a product concept and business canvas for a hiring platform, convinced people to make / fund it
- Made an audience selector widget for an AdTech company (used by most the big newspapers)
- Did a couple personal projects between jobs: [ashtonsix.com/p/closeness-lines](#) & [ashtonsix.com/p/price-paid](#)

### Tech Lead at Researcher (April 2019 to December 2019)

- Figured out how all the internal software and infrastructure fit together, shared the knowledge with everyone, and suggested improvements. Reduced monthly infrastructure spend from \$10,000-ish to \$5,000-ish
- Ad-hoc problem solving, coaching, planning. Like, vetting tech choices and helping decide what to build next
- Convinced everyone it was a good idea to migrate from a custom ad solution to Google Ad Manager
- Made the web app (only person available with relevant skills, product was mobile-first)

### Founder of Salamander (July 2018 to April 2019)

- Bootstrapped a deep learning platform with just \$10,000, and acquired 2,000 customers
- Automated provisioning of cheap but hard-to-use “spot servers” to make them be like expensive but easy-to-use “on-demand servers”. Many startups tried this, but I used clever tricks to do it better: at pricing, availability, and server boot-up time. See this third party comparison: [github.com/binga/cloud-gpus](#), it shows Salamander was the best-value solution out of 20 competitors by a wide margin
- Created a user experience that, according to customers, was “super intuitive”, “a god-tier setup”, and “addressed a lot of pain points that other platforms couldn't”
- Sold the company to fast.ai
- No longer available, but you can see what it used to look like at [ashtonsix.com/p/salamander](#)

### Senior Full-Stack Engineer at VenueScanner (2018)

### Full-Stack Engineer at Beyond Labs (2016 to 2018)

### Front-End Engineer at MyGravity (2015)

### Junior Front-End Engineer at Movidiam (2014 to 2015)

## Electives

### Soft Skills Coaching (weekly sessions from February 2020 to March 2021)

Done with a PhD alumnus from the Oxford Internet Institute and current head of product at a large tech company.

### Mindfulness Coaching (weekly sessions from July 2019 to December 2020)

Improved my emotional intelligence and ability to handle stress.