

Sean Preston—Curriculum Vitae

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About Me:

I'm a company-minded, entrepreneurial tech lead currently shipping products at scale at <https://marvelapp.com>. I'm a keen skier, failed home-garden-caretaker and aspiring yogi. I love to move fast, and value resourcefulness in my architecture.

I've been coding, building and tinkering in some way since I was 14 when I discovered using Visual Basic to make simple computer games. I love solving problems with code, and the gratification from mentoring others to do so with me.

I prefer good foundational knowledge over any particular application, but some **tech I've worked with is:** Python, Django, REST, GraphQL, rabbitmq, celery, jMeter, SAML, nodejs, React, Backbone.js, MySQL, Postgres, ElasticSearch, Google Cloud Platform.

I hold both UK and US passports, and have the right to work in both places.

Education:

2010 - 2011: MSc Web Intelligence, Department of Computer Science, King's College London, U.K.

2007 - 2010: BSc Computer Science, University of Durham, U.K.

Experience:

2018 - Present: Team Lead at Marvelapp.com

- Led team with remit of delivering next-gen iteration of Marvelapp's core team collaboration features as part of a broader monorepo architecture
- Architected a load testing pipeline which uses a Python script to generate test data then fits that data into a .jmx file run by Blazemeter on deployment
- Architected a pipeline to optimise .webm videos for streaming using Google Cloud Functions. Triggered when a video is uploaded to a Cloud Storage Bucket, the Cloud Function uses nodejs to split the headers from the rest of video data before making sure the SeekHeaders and Cues are in the correct places
- Built <https://colors.marvelapp.com/>, an API integration that uses vanilla javascript to overlay colour filters on top of prototypes to illustrate to designers how their prototypes appear to colour-blind users
- Took on regular one to ones, ranging from 2 to 5 direct reports at any one time
- Wrote a Career Levelling Framework to manage progression of those in our engineering team, which was then applied to the entire team
- Organised 2x company-wide hackdays (~40 people)

2016 - 2018: Scrummaster + Engineer at Marvelapp.com

- Implemented a SAML service provider for Marvelapp, managed SSO integrations with enterprise clients
- Took a scrummaster training course with Evolve Beyond
- Ran sprints and did IC work 50:50
- Team structure started as 5x backend engineers, moving eventually to 8x vertically integrated, before delegating scrummaster duties
- Managed roll-out of, and contributed to architecture of, Marvelapp's next generation and publicly facing GraphQL API, building on top of the Graphene Python library. Many of our enterprise clients now build on top of this API to enhance their design operations
- Helped build and maintain a datawarehouse system and corresponding ETL scripts

2014 - 2016: Full Stack Engineer at Marvelapp.com

- Joined as first engineering hire, working directly with CTO and eventually a small team
- Built out Marvelapp from MVP to the beginnings of an enterprise tool
- Implemented an actions-based events framework to enable real-time "multiplayer" collaboration in building prototypes using websockets. This events framework served as the basis for a notifications system and multiple third-party integrations (Slack, JIRA, ...) to alert users when changes were made to prototypes
- Integrated platform with cloud storage services to facilitate image upload and syncing on file change (GDrive, Dropbox, Box)
- Migrated backend from three Rackspace app servers deployed with a Fab file to five GCP instances deployed with Ansible playbooks
- Converted whole jQuery/Backbone frontend codebase to ES6 and eventually moved to React frontend

2013 - 2014: Backend Engineer at (now defunct) Rushmore.FM

- Developing new features for, and maintaining, the Django based Rushmore platform
- Collaborating with other developers (iPhone, front end) to ensure API is filling all objectives and requirements
- Took part in product meetings to give a technical perspective on proposed features
- Built search indexes using ElasticSearch
- Built system to process stored videos using FFMPEG
- Built a Flash & WebRTC broadcasting tool

Entrepreneurship

2008-2010: Co-founder at (now defunct) Purplebooks.co.uk

- Setup a textbook sharing website with two others during my second year at Durham University

- Built a website allowing users to list second-hand textbooks currently available for sale
- Facilitated over £5000 of second-hand textbook sales over two years before shutting down upon graduation