Dan Gardner

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Change can be hard. Scaling, transforming, pivoting ? Sometimes you need a new perspective.
I can help maintain harmony across people, process & technology whilst balancing strategic & tactical.
Cross industry experience with architecture at its core and a fascination with what makes a company special.

Work Experience

Strategic Command	**Enterprise Architect**	2023 - 2025
Ministry of Defence Strategic Command / Defence Digital	*Massive organisation & challenges in strategically volatile times. Where are cross industry lessons useful or possible within the MOD.*	

• Hugely complicated landscape of teams, programmes, services, technology with varying business & technical architectural maturity. As part of the CTO function constantly challenged with vision of joined up architecture and recommendations to solve dysfunction. Produced new User Service Enablement strategy as an enterprise target across all users consuming all services through devices. A future flexible coordination of connectivity & cyber patterns in line with Zero Trust, Data & Service Centricity.   Reducing complexity overheads & unlocking a cohesive user experience.

ZAVA	**Architectural Consultant**	2021
Zava *(via Baddogdown Ltd)* HealthTech consultation prescriptions	*Huge growth potential that needed a better architectural function & foresight in order to scale fast. A good industry to be in during a pandemic.*	

• **Architectural Function:** Defined a complete architectural function. A goal ready for imminent growth; Architectural disciplines (Ent/Sol/App), principles, process &ToE, governance models, arch artefacts (e.g. Biz or Tech). A roadmap for continually improving how to make decisions & change. Keeping the whole organisation strategically aligned.
• Example artefacts delivered as part of this framework & toolset prioritised getting to a future strategic platform: Business Capability Model, Platform Capability Model (target & gap analysis), Logical Architecture, Physical Architecture, Key Decision Catalogue, Technology & Service Catalogue, Strategic platform roadmap.

WORLDFIRST	**Enterprise Architect**	2020
WorldFirst / AliPay FinTech - monetary exchange	*What is it like inside the world's biggest FinTech and how do you adapt a young UK bank for integration after acquisition?*	

• **Architectural Function:** Built Enterprise Architectural views & improved the maturity of function needed to facilitate integration after the recent acquisition by Ant Financial, otherwise known as AliPay, the financial division of AliBaba.

	Architectural Consultant (Various)	2016 - Present
Baddogdown Ltd IT Consultancy	*Learning to run my own company providing architectural consultancy, with a bit of building cool things on the side.*	

• **PhotonPharma (2019):** Solely responsible for designing and building a self running & healing cloud service for automatic large scale detection, classification, technical analysis, data mining and reporting of the illegitimate sale of drugs online (UK government funded). Very positive interest from the NCA cyber division & United Nations Office of Drug & Crime. GCP/nginx/json/scripting/GKE+ELK/[CI/CD]
• **EFundamentals (3y):** All Enterprise/Solution/Application architectural deliverables. Engineering of SDLC/CI/CD full stack onto GoogleCP. Build & Release management, infrastructure-as-code, auto-scaling, zero downtime deployments, IaaS/PaaS/FaaS/SaaS. Elasticsearch running on Kubernetes, GCE/GKE/PubSub/CloudSQL/Shell scripting etc.
• Various other consultancy work ranging from reviewing technology selection processes to the logistics of office relocation for Newspapers or Art publication companies.

envirtual	**Enterprise / Solution consulting architect**	2013 - 2016
Envirtual Ltd IT Consultancy	*Providing Enterprise & Solution Architecture and some disruptive thinking to drive cultural & business transformation into a range of industries.*	

- **JLR:** Architected prototype solution for Jaguar Land Rover intended to disrupt thinking and expose capabilities from historically precious core systems (ESBs integration & new BFF). Customers iPad engaged in the changing circumstances of their car being built. Challenging dev methodologies (Agile/SDLC/CI/CD), Governance & process (not waterfall!), how to think about data (understand risk profiles inc how & when to utilise the cloud) to securely offer customers more capability with minimised risk to core integrity. Provoke future cultural change.
- Built Enterprise Architectural views as part of reviews for media companies; Baurer, Informa.

FINANCIAL TIMES	**Platform / Solution Architect**	2011 - 2013
The Financial Times Ltd Printing and Publishing	*Working within a fantastic global brand that has proven that digital products make money. What should "the cloud" mean to The FT.*	

- Technology & organisation transformation driving improvement of digital products across the FT's key global markets. Data driven dashboards & KPIs to empower product owners. Diagnostic tools for development teams.
- Strategy & roadmaps for core infrastructure & technology platforms covering Data Centres, Internal Virtualisation, IaaS, PaaS & SaaS including guidelines & governance around selection.
- Provided consultancy to the teams delivering the new phase of Identity, Access, Billing & Revenue and Customer Relationship Management. SalesForce, Janrain, Akamai, a bit of internal build etc.

⊕ News International	**Solution Architect** + a bit of Enterprise	2007 - 2011
News International Newspapers Ltd Printing and Publishing	*Providing Solution & Enterprise Architecture to the fascinating debate at the heart of the Newspaper industry; content is king & digital news is worthy of payment.*	

Highlights: *Lead Solution Architect:*
- The Times, The Sunday Times & News of the World website re-launches for News Internationals paywall initiative.
- Core online paywall systems; Identity and Access Management & Billing and Revenue Management, CRM & "Single Customer View", CDN integration and pioneered "fail gracefully".
- Integration of all peripheral solutions (apps, devices, websites) with authorisation, paywall, cdn & customer systems.

Other:
- Established & chaired Design Authority providing governance and alignment to business & IT strategies & roadmaps.
- Delivered architectural principles, process & documentation templates as well as appropriate governance integration.
- Provided Solution (+Application) Architecture ranging from infrastructure to applications & SaaS solutions.
- Provided extensive input to operational teams in most areas of Service Management & troubleshooting.
- Became TOGAF certified & spent 6 months supporting Deloitte's building of an Enterprise Architecture view.

emap	**Various roles**	2002 - 2007
Emap UK IT	*Architecture across the whole digital estate. Created central dev & delivery team*	

Unix SysAdmin / Build Manager / Release Manager / Engineer • Delivered data centre migration. 200 websites. Networks infr_ + standardised Windows and Unix server farms for app & databases. Centralised storage & security platforms. Build & Release methodologies & toolsets + definition of support structure, governance & SLAs.

emap MCN	**Website Producer**	2000 - 2002
Emap Automotive / MCN	*IT within a large media organisation and a market leading product.*	

- Webmaster/DBA/coder. Java/WebSphere/DB2/Oracle/VBScript/PSQL, CMS tools. Data models + Documentation.

	Systems Administrator / DBA	1998 - 2000
HomeDirectory plc	*Dot com creating the products behind a fantastic fresh industry leading vision.*	

- Residential property sales. Responsible for infra/networks, server builds, operations. DBA, Webmaster, coder.

	Automotive Design Engineer	1995 - 1998
ETB Instruments ltd	*Working at the heart of one of the greatest bespoke automotive coach builders.*	

- Engineering on special projects for Mulliner Park Ward Bespoke Vehicle Division of Rolls Royce Bentley Motor Cars.