Brian Gillett-Smith
Development Manager

✉ brian@gillettsmith.co.uk
📞 07774 295611

⊙ About Me

A **hands-on Development Manager** with over **24 years software development experience** and more than **8 years in leadership**. I specialise in architecting scalable SaaS solutions and building high-performing, cross-functional teams - balancing great culture with technical excellence.

I am most effective when bridging the gap between complex engineering and business profitability. My career highlights include creating iCompare, delivering a **500x performance increase** over the legacy health-tech system and a **95% reduction in infrastructure cost** - slashing annual spend by **£480,000**.

As a **certified AgilePM Practitioner**, I lead by example - fostering a trusting environment and implementing modern workflows such as **CI/CD** and **unit testing** to deliver products on time, on budget, and to the highest standard.

🗄 Career

Development Manager, The Benchmarking Network (TBN)
JUNE 2022 - PRESENT • MANCHESTER / REMOTE

→ Grew the development team from 7 to 14 professionals across front-end, back-end, DevOps and added a much-needed QA function.

→ Implemented continuous integration processes including unit testing and code reviews, reducing reoccurring bugs and improving DX.

→ Spearheaded the development of a new, highly customisable, industry-independent SaaS benchmarking product to replace the legacy TBN health-tech systems.

→ Delivered the new system using AgilePM on time and on budget whilst maintaining BAU requirements and preserving critical dataflows.

→ Led a project to replace old infrastructure with Azure and implemented continuous deployment, reducing release time for code updates by 90%.

→ Fostered better communication across the team, building trust and team cohesion that evolved into friendship.

Development Manager, CHKS
AUGUST 2017 - JUNE 2022 • SOLIHULL / REMOTE

→ Promoted to become responsible for the efficiency and productivity of the development team.

→ Added new features and data sets to iCompare, increasing the number of queryable NHS patient records to 2.7 billion.

</> Skills

Front-end
→ Vue/Nuxt
→ Angular
→ Svelte/Sveltekit
→ React
→ TypeScript
→ Tailwind

Back-end
→ PHP/Laravel
→ Python
→ FastAPI
→ Pandas

Data Storage
→ MySQL/MS SQL/Postgres
→ Elasticsearch

Leadership
→ AgilePM (APMG)
→ CI/CD
→ QA Management
→ Mentorship

→ Upgraded our infrastructure, adding 10Gb networking with redundancy whilst maintaining zero downtime to the system, meaning our business SLA was uninterrupted.

→ Led an internal project to replace the failing 20+ year old AWK data processing system with a new, faster, easier to maintain pipeline written in Python. This resulted in a massive performance improvement and removed 1000s of old scripts and a large source of technical debt.

→ Grew the team to 4 full-stack developers and 2 system administrators.

→ Transitioned the team to a hybrid working model.

Release Manager / Senior Developer, CHKS
APRIL 2016 - AUGUST 2017 • ALCESTER

→ Responsible for coordinating deployment of multiple code repositories across 5 environments.

→ Developed advanced modules for iCompare, including the Data Analysis Toolkit that allows the user to create snapshots of their data before advanced interrogation and exporting.

→ Instrumental in the development of a new consultant-level product that benchmarks NHS consultants against others of their specialism and batch-generates PDF reports, allowing for clients to quickly complete their regulatory requirements.

Senior PHP/MySQL Developer, CHKS
OCTOBER 2013 - APRIL 2016 • ALCESTER

→ Worked on a new Market Intelligence product and implemented a single-sign-on system, improving UX and session retention between products.

→ Created a new flagship product named iCompare on a bespoke PHP framework and jQuery UI, able to query 1.7 billion NHS patient records from Elasticsearch 500x faster than the legacy system whilst also being much more efficient - reducing infrastructure costs by £40,000 per month.

→ Unlocked increased revenue from the resultant new sales, allowing the business to fund major feature developments for iCompare for the following 3 years.

🗔 Early Career

→ Senior Developer • Whiteroom Brand Design (August 2009 - October 2013)

→ Senior Developer • Muse & Ogle (April 2006 - August 2009)

→ Web Developer • Wolseley UK (2004 - April 2006)

→ Web Developer • Global Graphics (2002 - 2004)

During this decade I progressed from Junior to Senior Developer at brand design and marketing companies, specialising in PHP/MySQL to build robust web applications for various industries and lifestyle brands; Giant, Sprayway, Experian and Plumb Centre.

🖵 Qualifications

2023 - APMG INTERNATIONAL

AgilePM Foundation and Practitioner certification

2002 - UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE

BSc (Hons) Visualisation

1996/1998 - KENILWORTH SCHOOL

4 A-Levels inc. Maths & Physics
10 GCSEs

🎮 Personal Projects

BowBuddy

→ A bespoke archery score management system created using Sveltekit and Laravel.

→ Calculates archer handicaps and classifications.

→ Features a comprehensive filters that allow users to analyse their performance.

→ Tracks competition scores and generates participant positions.

→ Allows users to benchmark their scores against their peers.

Game Development

→ Developed many small games for various jams using Godot.

→ Created various tutorial videos explaining key concepts.