

MATT HAMILTON

Developer Advocate

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WHO AM I?



I'm a developer and advocate passionate about blockchain, cryptocurrencies, AI/ML, and Python. I love building innovative solutions by combining diverse technologies and empowering developers through teaching, mentoring, and championing their feedback.

My career began running a UK web development business and engaging with the Plone open source community, where I organized hackathons and sprints. I later led mobile teams for a US healthtech startup, implementing CI/CD systems for rapid deployment.

Transitioning into full-time Developer Advocacy at IBM, I streamed live coding sessions and co-developed Choirless—a tool for remote musical collaboration (Call for Code finalist). At Ripple, I spearheaded initiatives to educate and connect developers on the XRP Ledger.

For two years, I worked at Protocol Labs doing DevRel for the Filecoin Virtual Machine, from early builders and testnets through to its launch on mainnet.

Most recently, I've worked at the Arbitrum Foundation doing DevRel for Arbitrum Orbit (L3 chains) and Arbitrum Stylus (WASM / Rust smart contracts).

EXPERIENCE

5/2024 – 2/2025
Remote

Senior Developer Relations

Arbitrum Foundation

Working as the sole DevRel, I created and hosted workshops, and delivered talks (in-person and online) to various community groups worldwide. I was mainly focused on Arbitrum Stylus and creating smart contracts in Rust, specifically around on-chain AI agents.

Notable achievements

- Created Arbitrum Arena, an educational game where developers created smart contracts to “battle” against each other in a virtual arena.
- Created Arbitrum Online AI Agent - a demo of a Rust-based Q-Learning agent learning to solve a maze, entirely within a smart contract.
- Created and hosted workshops for hackathons (ETHGlobal Brussels & Bangkok, Agentic Ethereum, GovHack) while also serving as a mentor and judge.

8/2022 – 4/2024
Remote

Principal Developer Advocate

Protocol Labs (Filecoin)

Protocol Labs is the team behind the IPFS and Filecoin decentralised storage networks. I specifically worked on the Filecoin Virtual Machine (FVM) and Interplanetary Consensus (IPC) teams.

Notable achievements:

- Attended, mentored, judged seven in-person, and five remote hackathons, interacting with over 5,000 developers.
- Spoke at multiple events including FIL Vegas, FIL Bangalore, XRP Ledger Zone, Consensus 2023, IPFS Camp, IPFS Thing, Track chair for FIL Dev Summit Iceland 2023.
- Interviewed on numerous podcasts/shows, e.g Storage Unleashed, Naomi Brockwell TV.
- Created the Filecoin FVM Localnet image, a docker image for spinning up a local full Filecoin dev network with over 8,000 image downloads.
- Ran the fvmdev Twitter account, and started a campaign of developer to developer video short interviews.
- Started a weekly Twitch stream in which I interviewed developers in the community and live-coded example projects on Filecoin.

5/2022 – 7/2022
Remote

Director of Developer Relations (contract)

Opentensor Foundation

Opentensor is a newly formed startup looking to build a decentralised, incentivised global neural network, Bittensor. I was hired to help grow their community and start a developer relations strategy for them.

Notable achievements:

- Implemented Orbit, a tool to measure and analyse community growth, pulling statistics from Discord, GitHub and Twitter.
- Formulated a DevRel plan for 2022.
- Interviewed on On The Chain podcast about Bittensor.
- Delivered a presentation at Microsoft Reactor Web3 meetup on Bittensor.

Reaching out to wider machine learning and crypto communities, we observed a 216% increase in active members, 425% increase in new members and a 5% increase in returning members.

2/2021 – 2/2022
Remote

Director of Developer Relations / Principal Developer Advocate

Ripple

I joined RippleX as the Director of Developer Relations and worked with others to form the overall strategy for Ripple's involvement with the wider XRP Ledger developer community. The main core of this strategy was looking at the various channels that developers were using and taking Ripple out to meet them in the wider community.

I started a weekly developer-focussed livestream on Twitch in which I invited guests on to talk about projects they were developing and dive into the code of what they were building. This ranged from web-monetized music streaming websites, to using various SDKs, to experiments with NFT-enabled secure lockers.

Notable achievements:

- hosted 43 Twitch streams, totaling 58 hours of content, reaching 13,500 distinct viewers
- I spoke at 18 external speaking engagements, ranging from public conferences such as Techsylvania and the Singapore Fintech Festival, through to university blockchain clubs and Youtube channels
- I spoke at 4 internal education events for various Ripple teams to help them better understand the XRP Ledger and crypto in general
- I planned and scripted a series of 10 short YouTube "explainer" videos on various aspects of the XRP Ledger. These were professionally animated and voiced.
- Launched a Discord community channel for developers (currently 1,000 members)
- Helped create, organise and judge two rounds of the XRP Ledger Grants program. Awarding a total of approx \$5M in funding to developers
- Helped launch and judge quarterly XRP Ledger hackathons
- Started the development of a public, crowd-sourced directory of projects in the XRP Ledger and XRP ecosystem.
- Interviewed new hires at Ripple. I was on 23 interview panels throughout the last year for a range of developer, community manager, and program manager roles.
- Attended XRPL developer community meetups
- Provided internal consultancy to other initiatives, such as the Campus Ambassador program, Apex Developer conference, Educational programs, Documentation portal

2/2020 – 2/2021
Bristol, UK

Developer Advocate, AI/ML/Cloud

IBM

I joined the London city developer advocacy team for IBM Cloud. This team was responsible for in-person events and workshops to help developers understand and get hands-on experience with the various products in IBM Cloud. Due to Covid, these were moved entirely online. I started a weekly Twitch livestream focused on machine learning and AI and developing interactive Python notebooks for developers to work through.

I also hosted the IBM Think! "Hallway track" on Twitch which ran alongside the main IBM Think! developer conference. Speakers joined the Twitch livestream after their pre-recorded talk on the "main stage", to have a more interactive talk and answer questions from the audience.

3/2018 – 2/2020 **EU Infrastructure Engineer** **IBM**
Bristol, UK
I was responsible for the development and maintenance of compliance tooling for ensuring compliance with SoC 2 and GDPR standards. I was also on the on-call rota for the support of Composes suite of databases hosted in IBM Cloud, AWS, and GCP.

11/2014 – 2/2020 **Owner / Director** **Quernus, Ltd.**
Bristol, UK
I ran my own technology consulting and development firm. My last project was the development of the Python backend for a simulation game for the UN's Global Festival of Ideas conference. This was deployed to Google App Engine and serviced a peak of 450 simultaneous mobile users and several game tables, processing approx 10,000 financial transactions / second.

11/2014 – 12/2017 **Mobile Team Lead** **enquos**
Bristol, UK /
Los Angeles, CA
At enquos, my role was to build and lead the mobile development team. I recruited and built an in-house mobile development team from scratch consisting of three Android and three iOS developers to work alongside the team of two front-end developers, a graphic designer, two UX designers, and a team of six backend python developers. My responsibilities were to organise the work of the team, run the development process (loosely SCRUM-based, 2-week development cycles) and take requirements from the business to implementation. I also coordinated the work of the mobile team with the backend (Python, Cassandra, AWS) team with regards to APIs being developed.

6/2000 – 11/2014 **Technical Director** **Netsight Internet Solutions, Ltd.**
Bristol, UK
Netsight Internet Solutions was a web development company specialising in combining both creative and technical skills to design and produce fast, effective and elegant websites. Netsight has been using Plone, an Open Source web CMS, and Pyramid a lightweight Python web framework. Clients range from local SMEs to national and international corporations, education, and public sector. I helped grow Netsight from a one-man-band domain name reseller to a complete digital agency employing sixteen full-time staff.

I led the effort to gain ISO27001 (Information Security) accreditation for Netsight's infrastructure and development operations.

EDUCATION

2024 **Oxford Executive Leadership Programme** **University of Oxford, Saïd Business School**
I completed the Oxford Executive Leadership Programme, an intensive online course designed to enhance strategic thinking, leadership capabilities, and decision-making skills. The programme focused on developing a deep understanding of leadership frameworks, fostering innovation, and navigating complex organizational challenges. It also emphasized the importance of adaptive leadership, effective communication, and driving organizational change in today's rapidly evolving business landscape. Grade: 92.3%

2018 **Oxford Fintech Programme** **University of Oxford, Saïd Business School**
Themes covered: the digitisation of money, digital platforms and mobile financial services, artificial intelligence and algorithmic technologies in financial services, central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), blockchain and cryptocurrencies, open banking and data networks

1996 - 2000 **MEng (Hons) 2:1 Computer Science** **University of Bristol, UK**
I achieved a 2:1 honours degree in Computer Science at the University of Bristol, UK. I have taken modules in various subjects such as Software Engineering, Computer Architecture, Networking, Information Systems, Databases, System Integration, Safety Critical Systems, Network Security and Computer Graphics. I received the highest project mark awarded to date by the department of 84% for my final year project, a full-text indexer/search system capable of returning real-time results to search queries in an archive of over a million email messages.

MISC

Nationality - British
Languages - native English, school-level German & French
Driving Licence - Full, clean, UK licence

HOBBIES

Paddleboarding, cycling, motorbikes, tinkering with Arduinos / IoT / Home automation, Writing algorithmic trading bots.

COMMUNITY

I am heavily involved in the XRP Ledger community. Previously I was also on the board of directors of the Plone Foundation, and a STEM Ambassador to students.