

Andrew Jones

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<https://andrew-jones.com>

Software engineer and tech lead. Enjoy solving problems and getting things done. Always looking to learn and improve.

OVERVIEW

I'm a software engineer with over twelve years experience. Since September 2017 I have been working on building a best-in-class data platform at GoCardless, which drives our analytics, data science, and key strategic products such as [Success+](#).

Before joining GoCardless I was a Staff Engineer at Arm, where for the last three years I was the tech lead on Arms internal metrics platform. This collected and stored Arms engineering and operations data and prepared it for further analyses, and was my first experience with building and managing a data platform.

Outside of work I enjoy being active, and have completed a number of half marathons (PB 1hr 40), partake in white water kayaking, and am a former member of the Broxbourne Rowing Club.

At home I'm a father to a 1 year old boy and enjoy occasional baking and brewing my own beers. Ultimately I enjoy challenging myself and making things, be that a data platform, beer, or anything else.

I blog occasionally at <https://andrew-jones.com>.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GoCardless, London — *Senior Software Engineer and Tech Lead*

SEPTEMBER 2017 - PRESENT

I joined GoCardless in September 2017 as the first hire on our new Data Platform team, tasked with **building out our data platform from scratch**. As the tech lead I've played a key role in setting our direction, prioritising our work, and managing the team.

We spent the first 2 years building out the primitives of our platform, ensuring all our data is available in one place and putting in place the initial BI and Data Science tooling. I'm constantly trying to make **the right trade-offs** between building the best against delivering the solution. For example, we initially ingested and processed data once a day, and by delivering that we opened up the data platform to many use cases. A year later we went back and made it real-time, building on the foundations we had put in place.

The third year we really focussed on increasing the **robustness and reliability of the data platform**. It's not that it was unreliable before, but it was started to be depended on by more critical processes and driving products our customers are paying for, so we made a conscious decision to invest in taking it to the next level of maturity. This paid off when we had an incident, which I've written about in the blog post [We had an incident, and it was great](#).

As I've discussed in my well received blog post [What does a Tech Lead do?](#), I've been focussing a lot on my leadership skills and have really improved in this area. Our team works effectively and has real impact, and we score consistently high in our regular health checks. There's always more for me to learn though and I continue to focus on my leadership and communication skills.

<https://andrew-jones.com/cv.pdf>

Arm, Cambridge — Staff Engineer

SEPTEMBER 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2017

I first joined Arm in 2006 for a one year placement position as part of my University course and accepted the offer to come back once I graduated in 2008.

Since 2012 I have been working on Arms internal **Metrics Platform**, becoming the **tech lead** soon after.

The metrics platform is a centralised system to collect, store, and analyse Arms internal data. The initial focus was on engineering data, for example verification data on Arms processor designs, benchmarks, etc, but the platform was designed with other use cases in mind and expanded to collect large amounts of infrastructure data, including HPC data, shared storage, networking, etc. It is used by all of Arms CPU projects for **business critical** reporting and analysis.

As tech lead I am responsible for **managing a team** of developers, **prioritising** and **planning** deliveries, **facilitating** decisions, and **designing** solutions. Until recently we were lacking a project manager, so I was also responsible for all the project management, including stakeholder management, upward management, and reporting.

Under the direction of our architect we decided to move to the **Lambda Architecture** in 2014, and I was responsible for implementing that.

To be honest, this project was a challenge. We had an ambitious plan but it took longer to deliver than we anticipated. I **learnt** that I needed to be a stronger tech lead, to be able to **persuade and convince** when I need to, and to ensure the **vision** for the platform was well understood by all team members and stakeholders.

In June 2016 I was invited to speak at the Tableau Conference On Tour, my first **external presentation**. This feels like a milestone in my career, and is an area I want to continue to develop in.

COURSES

Emergency First Aid Training — Broxbourne Rowing Club

2017

Covering action in event of an emergency; approach to the patient; care of an unconscious patient; CPR; defibrillator use; first aid for bleeding and fractures; dealing with extremes of temperature; drowning

EDUCATION

Bournemouth University — BSc (Hons) Business Information Technology

2004 - 2008

A four year course, including a placement year at Arm, leading to a job offer on graduation.

I chose a deliberately varied course because at the time I didn't know what I wanted to do as a career, but soon realised I enjoyed programming and the technical subjects and tailored the course to focus on these areas.