# Christopher Simpson

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I am an experienced Solution Architect mainly within Financial Services organisations, leading the architecture delivery on complex cross business programmes through my broad technical experience and by building valuable relationships across the organisation.

# Key Experience

* Production of the end to end design for the integration of Cloud hosted solutions with on-premise applications and ownership of the solution across the full project lifecycle.
* Stakeholder management across both IT and the Business up to Director level.
* Significant experience of presenting and influencing senior stakeholders with the ability to adapt my presentation style and content to the target audience.
* A breadth of technical experience including on premise and cloud (Azure) hosted solutions, integration patterns and security.
* Participating in and running Governance forums for architectural artefacts.
* Production of delivery roadmaps for a variety of programmes and capabilities including the introduction of new and the transition of existing systems.
* Ownership of Non-Functional Requirements and architectural input to the tender processes for both services and IT solutions.
* Leadership of teams spread across various locations including offshore including recruitment, work allocation and performance reviews.

# Training and Qualifications

**Professional Qualifications:**

* ISEB Certified Technical Architect
* ISEB IS Consultancy

**Training & Courses:**

* IBM Architectural Thinking
* Object Oriented Design Using UML
* Rational Software Architect and Rational Team Concert

**1993-1997 Manchester Metropolitan University**

BSc(Hons) Computing: I obtained a Second Class Honours (1st Division), the course involved a twelve month placement at TSB Bank working within Commercial Systems IT.

# Work Experience

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| **Morrisons** | **July 2018 – present** |
| *Solution Architect* | |

Solution Architect working on the Market Street Production & Yield project:

* Responsible for producing the architecture and solution ownership for a new trial solution implemented within Retail stores, including the design of new microservices providing, for example, integration with in-store weighing scales
* Owned the relationship with a number of third party suppliers including Bizerba (weighing scales) and Zetes (Android tablets)
* Produced roadmap and architecture for an enduring solution for rollout across the entire Store estate, utilising Amazon Web Services (AWS)
* Acted as the single point of contact for technical issues and liaised with technical teams to manage issue resolution.

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| **Co-Op General Insurance (Contract)** | **April 2017 – June 2018** |
| *Solution Architect* | |

Solution Architect working on a number of initiatives including legacy application risk mitigation and transformational projects:

* Produced a number of options papers for remediating risks with existing systems, both packaged applications and custom developments. I was accountable for presenting these to senior stakeholders to influence the treatment and future investment profile.
* Documented existing IT security services and presented options for the transfer from the existing supplier to the Co-op Group services, this was to support the separation of General Insurance and the Co-op Bank.
* Responsible for producing the solution for migrating from an on premise Oracle Financials solution to Oracle Cloud Financials.

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| **Provident Financial Group (Contract)** | **February 2017 – April 2017** |
| *Lead Solution Architect* | |

Lead Solution Architect on a workstream within a large business transformation programme. I was responsible for the architecture for an Azure hosted application to hold sales territories and the geographical coverage of these territories.

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| **Co-Op Bank (Contract)** | **May 2016 – February 2017** |
| *Lead Solution Architect* | |

Lead Solution Architect for the Service Management Tooling project implementing a Cloud hosted Service Management toolset (HPE Service Anywhere) to remediate several operational risks.

* Responsible for delivery of end to end architecture within a complex change environment
* Documented security risks and mitigations to influence stakeholders and gain solution approval
* Produced logical architecture and roadmap for introduction of Software Licence Asset Management tool
* Provided technical input to support problem resolution.

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| **AQA Education (Contract)** | **November 2015 – May 2016** |
| *Solution Architect* | |

I provided architectural oversight during a supplier selection process for a technology refresh programme (£20m), migrating Oracle based applications to the Microsoft stack and Azure. I was responsible for producing and presenting a number of artefacts covering both Business and Technical architecture to potential suppliers and played a significant role in the scope definition of the programme.

* Produced target application landscape, along with producing the criteria against which legacy applications would be scored for inclusion within the programme scope
* Led process improvement tasks such as designing a new architecture governance process and the design of associated deliverables such as Solution Vision and High Level Design
* Produced a baseline set of Non-Functional Requirements working closely with Security and Tech Ops colleagues for re-use across future initiatives
* Reviewed RFP submissions and fed recommendations into supplier selection

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| **Asda (Contract)** | **June 2015 – October 2015** |
| *Solution Architect* | |

I was the Lead Architect on several logistics projects, working closely with senior business stakeholders to shape the strategy and develop both the business and solution architecture.

* I was accountable for the architecture deliverables for logistics related projects working closely with suppliers and partner organisations. The focus of this was on the integration between in-house applications and 3rd party packages. I was accountable for reviewing detailed project designs produced by delivery partners (on and offshore) and presenting architectural deliverables to governance forums.
* An active member in the Architecture Forum providing governance for architecture artefacts.
* I was the Lead Solution Architect on a project implementing a Software as a Service solution for the delivery scheduling and tracking of grocery home deliveries, producing the end to end architecture and working with colleagues in the US to integrate to the existing website.
* I managed relationships with executive level business colleagues, presenting various options papers to gain approval and to assist with both the IT and business strategy for the programme.

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| **HSBC (Contract)** | **February 2015 – June 2016** |
| *Lead Architect – Global Finance* | |

I led a team of offshore Solution Architects and Business Analysts across a portfolio of projects within Global Finance delivering both new applications and third party application and infrastructure refresh. I provided mentoring to offshore resource, resource management and reporting. I led the governance engagement to seek approval for a cloud hosted reporting solution, managing complex stakeholder relationships within both IT and the business.

I built and maintained valuable relationships with senior business stakeholders and was the architecture representative on the Global Finance portfolio reviews, providing technical advice and guidance and input to portfolio planning.

I led the architecture element of a product evaluation for management tools for Cognos TM1 and Hyperion Financial Management.

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| **Lloyds Bank (Contract)** | **October 2013 – December 2014** |
| *Solution Architect* | |

Leading a project team of architects to produce the high level design for projects, I had responsibility for managing a team of architects at a project level to deliver architectural patterns and designs whilst facing off to senior business and IT stakeholders.

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| **Barclays UK Retail Bank** | **March 2013 to October 2013** |
| *Business Solution Architect (Vice President)* | |

Working closely with the business across customer facing channels to deliver innovative solutions delivering real customer benefit. The role was very focussed on innovation and delivering the architecture for industry leading initiatives such as mobile cheque deposit within the Bank’s Mobile Banking application and allowing customers to interact with the Bank using video calls from home. I was accountable for producing the architecture for both these initiatives and was also heavily involved in the evaluation of components and solutions supplied by third parties.

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| **Wipro (Lloyds Bank)** | **January 2012 to March 2013** |
| *Business Solution Architect (Vice President)* | |

A client facing role providing working on the group wide Process Simplification programme within Retail Banking. I was a member of the core architecture team that delivered the IT input to the Retail Target Operating Model.

A significant proportion of this role was stakeholder management and communication to senior colleagues within both IT and the business.

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| **Steria (Co-Operative Financial Services)** | **April 2011 – January 2012** |
| *Senior Solution Architect* | |

A client facing role within the Architecture function of the Cooperative Financial Group with a focus on Customer Authentication within a multi-channel architecture.

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| **Lloyds Banking Group** | **September 1997 – April 2011** |
| *Various Roles* | |

I held a number of roles including Solution Architect, Project Manager and Developer.

As a Solution Architect I was the workstream lead for a number of initiatives within the Contact Centre domain during the Lloyds TSB and HBOS merger.