

# Alex Cooke

## Web Developer

**Web:** <https://alexcooke.uk>

**LinkedIn:**

<https://bit.ly/alex-cooke>

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I started as a front-end web developer in 2001, working at the Department for Work and Pensions building HTML/CSS templates. I moved on to spend a year working for various web agencies including Bluewave and Razorfish. Then came a permanent 3 year role at recruitment company SThree where I became lead developer in their in-house web/media team.

Since 2006 I have worked as a contractor. I worked on a number of smaller websites as a full stack developer with PHP/MySQL on the back-end, initially using Zend and then moving over to Laravel. On the front-end I used jQuery for many years and have some experience with React and Vue.

In August 2021 I started a 9 month contract at Boohoo to develop Laravel applications integrating with their existing purchase order and customer order systems. They have extended my contract several times so that I could work on other projects. These have included developing AWS microservices to integrate with 3rd party services. I was lucky enough to be able to work directly with AWS technicians who provide support for the Boohoo engineering team.

## Skills

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For most of my career my core skills have been based around PHP/MySQL. I've used Zend Framework, Symfony and Laravel. I have developed high-traffic websites using caching and acceleration technologies such as Cloudflare, Nginx, Redis, Memcached and Varnish.

In the last couple of years I have worked extensively on AWS microservices utilising NodeJS Lambda functions, DynamoDB, SNS/SQS and API Gateway.

Most of my relational database experience has been with MySQL, although I have also worked with Oracle and PostgreSQL. I'm familiar with database design and optimisation, joins, transactions, indexing and stored procedures.

I have extensive experience of Agile software development (Extreme Programming and Scrum) and Test-Driven Development.

For many years I was responsible for the setup and maintenance of dedicated Redhat Linux servers hosted at Rackspace. I moved these over to AWS with Docker container instances running on Fargate and MySQL on RDS.

## Previous Experience

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### Holiday Weather

I worked on this site between 2008 and 2019, taking it through several iterations from straight PHP to Zend Framework and Laravel. We worked with a number of agencies including Inviqa in London and Bright Interactive in Brighton to enhance and optimise the site. Major changes included optimisation using Cloudflare and Cloudinary, interactive Google maps and enhanced long range forecast data.

### Jade Stanley Insurance

A company specialising in travel insurance for those with specific medical needs or looking to take part in sports and activities. I updated the PHP code to handle new underwriters, added new insurance cover options and an automated annual renewal system.

## Recent Projects

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### Boohoo

I developed the following projects using AWS services:

- Lambda
- Step Functions
- DynamoDB
- SNS, SQS
- S3
- API Gateway

### Purchase Order System

Integrated the purchase order system with 3rd party services to enable product compliance testing and HS commodity codes. These received purchase orders via SNS/SQS, enriched the data with product information fetched from other services and forwarded them on to 3rd parties. Messages to and from 3rd parties are stored for auditing.

### Customer Order Returns

Added a new provider for customer order returns. This involved setting up new endpoints in AWS API Gateway to receive return notifications and publish them via SNS to be available to the existing returns system and BI reporting applications. A Lambda function validates the payloads and sets message attributes to allow subscribers to filter incoming messages.

I updated the current (Laravel/MySQL) returns system to process the new payloads and map them to the existing data structure.

### Product Management

Worked as part of a team developing a new product management system. My main contribution was to build a product feed to send incremental updates to the sales platform to update product details and categories and to publish and unpublish products.

## Education

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### **Birkbeck College, University of London**

2004-06

MSc Computer Science

### **Brunel University**

1991-95

BSc Politics and History

### **Coleraine Technical College**

1990-91

A levels: Politics, Sociology

### **Coleraine Academical Institution**

1978-1985

10 O levels

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## Interests

**Guitar:** I am a member of a local jazz group and this has given me the opportunity to play in front of an audience. We have played several concerts, the most enjoyable being outdoors at Priory Park in Southend and Castle Park in Colchester.

**Choir:** I never used to think of myself as good at singing and always shied away from it. A couple of years ago I decided to get over this and joined a local choir. I have sung in a few concerts, including Leigh Folk Festival and Leigh Folk Carol Service.

**Sailing:** I grew up by the sea in Northern Ireland and used to sail as a teenager. Since moving to Leigh-on-Sea from London in 2011 I've taken advantage of being close to the water again, rowing with Lower Thames Rowing Club and sailing with Leigh Sailing Club.