# Chris Elston

Bristol

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Senior analyst/developer with more than 15 years experience working in a major financial institution and 2 years as a volunteer developer/maintainer for an open source photo processing application. A highly creative and versatile individual with a lifelong passion for learning and a track record of designing efficient and innovative solutions to complex problems. As an enthusiastic advocate of open source, I am now looking to move beyond Oracle and SQL to pursue a development career using Linux and open source technologies.

## Technical Experience

- Oracle SQL and PL/SQL (using Toad, SQL plus, SQL Developer)
- SQL Server, MySQL (MariaDB), SQLite
- Unix (Solaris) & Linux (RHEL, Arch Linux)
- Git/GitHub/BitBucket & ChangeMan DS version control systems
- Bash Scripting and batch interface development
- C programming on Linux using the GTK toolkit
- Hugo Static Site Generator & HTML/CSS
- Python & Flask web framework
- Visual Basic for Applications and automation within MS Word, Excel and Access
- Sopra MSS mortgage software

## Employment

**Senior Analyst / Developer – Bank of Ireland UK Mortgages**                    *2003 – 2021*

***Technical Skills:*** *Oracle SQL & PL/SQL, Unix/Linux, bash scripting, git/BitBucket, SQL Server, MS Word Automation (VBA), ChangeMan DS*

Senior developer and owner of workflow and document production code within the front-end mortgage application processing system (MSS Activate). Responsible for development of overnight batch programs to extract/transform/load data between bank systems and of ad-hoc reports to monitor business activity. Actively involved in the entire systems development lifecycle, working closely with project managers, business analysts, testers and implementation/support teams.

Author and owner of key processes and coding standards, some subsequently adopted company-wide. Produced comprehensive technical and user documentation to be used as training material and as the basis for functional change specifications. Led walkthroughs for complicated functional changes with managers, developers and business users. Devised and delivered training programmes for new developers and testers. Acted as development team representative in recruitment and interviews, and as team leader during manager absence.

- 2017-2021: Lead developer for a major upgrade of the mortgage systems and underlying infrastructure. This was a complex project requiring most of the underlying software/hardware to be upgraded, including migration from Oracle 9i (on Unix/Solaris) to Oracle 12c (on Red Hat Enterprise Linux). This involved working closely with many third party and outsourced delivery teams, and resolution of complex compatibility issues. Led the migration of code version control from ChangeMan DS to git/BitBucket and provided training and documentation to developers unfamiliar with Linux and git processes.

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- 2019: Devised a solution that allowed offer documents to be published and accepted by customers using the bank's online application system. This was not something natively supported by the bank's internal application systems and required a number of innovative workarounds to avoid dependency on a major systems upgrade (which was still in the planning stage at the time). This formed a major plank of the bank's growth strategy.

- 2018: Lead developer of a complex regulated mortgage illustration document. Devised new functionality wherein the entire document was output in Rich Text code, generated from Oracle using a custom-created markup language. Delivered to extremely tight timescales (from idea to delivery in less than two weeks), this tool allowed a large amount of specialist work to be broken into much smaller modules and shared between a broader group of developers. Project development was delivered weeks ahead of previous estimates, allowing us to keep to an extremely tight regulatory schedule.

- 2013: Significantly enhanced functionality of the back-end mortgage systems by creating a new automated workflow framework within the overnight batch. This allowed a number of complex and time-consuming manual processes to be automated with minimal user interaction producing significant savings.

- 2011: Produced reports and ETL scripts to migrate segments of the bank's loan book to other financial institutions. This project involved working closely with third parties (including other banks) and delivery of fully reconciled tranches of account data to external systems within very tight timescales.

- 2010 – 2013: Re-engineered code release processes/scripts as part of a project to upgrade the team's version control system, working alongside the BAU Support and configuration management teams. Though the project was ultimately abandoned, the amended processes were back-ported to the old system and remain in use today.

- 2009: Assumed responsibility for maintenance of a legacy mortgage system from the bank's Reading offices. Subsequently involved in migration of the account data to the new mortgage system.

- 2006: Developed interfaces to securitise tranches of loans for sale on the open market. This involved selection of accounts, segregation of those accounts from the rest of the mortgage book and collation of financial and risk data required by regulators and external auditors, all to tight delivery timescales.

- 2005 – 2007: Lead developer on a project to centralise mortgage risk data in a SQL Server database (DTS), consolidating data from a number of bank systems before transferring it to SAS for risk profiling.

- 2004: Made significant changes to workflow and document code to comply with new FSA regulations.

- 2003 – 2005: Undertook an extensive revision of workflow to remove convoluted boilerplate code, allowing business processes to be flexed around a more generic workflow. This allowed many subsequent business process changes to be made without any IT involvement.

## Test Analyst – Adecco Employment *(Bank of Ireland)*                                          *2002 – 2003*

Produced system testing scripts for changes to the MSS mortgage system.

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## Other Relevant Experience

I maintain a small Linux-based home network which I have used to learn a number of a number of Linux and open source technologies including git, mysql (mariadb), javascript/jquery, PHP, python/flask and nginx. I also have experience of general Linux/network administration primarily using Arch Linux.

***Developer / Maintainer – Darktable Project***                                                       ***2020 – present***

***Technical Skills:*** *C programming within the GTK toolkit, Hugo SSG, HTML/CSS, javascript/jquery, git/GitHub, bash scripting.*

Darktable is an open source photo processing application that provides an open source alternative to Adobe Lightroom. It is a multi-platform development for Linux, Windows and macOS, using the GTK UI toolkit.

I have been contributing features and fixes to the darktable application for the past two years and am also active in the project's management team. In 2020 I migrated the entire user manual from docbook XML to markdown format, and I am now the primary maintainer of the documentation repository, which is published online using the Hugo Static Site Generator as well as in epub/pdf format. I am also a repository maintainer for the project's website (also using Hugo) and am responsible for drafting release notes and blog posts.

I provide user support on open source image forums as well as triaging issues and testing/reviewing pull requests.

## Education

**Bristol University**
MSci Physics With Astrophysics

**Whitefield Fishponds Community School**
A Level:        Computer Science (A)  Mathematics (A)  Physics (A)
GCSE:           7 A*,  2 A