Steven Lawton

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Steven Lawton - Technical Profile

Senior Software Developer with over 20 years' experience delivering robust, scalable backend systems across fintech, retail, Web3, and publishing. Known for pragmatic problem-solving, deep technical breadth, and consistent delivery in complex environments.

Core Strengths

- Backend-focused: **GoLang**, **Java**, **Node.js**, and **Scala**
- Cloud-native architecture: **AWS**, **GCP**, **Kubernetes**, and **Terraform**
- Event-driven systems: **Kafka**, **RabbitMQ**, and **gRPC**
- CI/CD and platform automation with **GitHub Actions**, **Docker**, and **Helm**
- Secure API design: **OpenAPI**, **GraphQL**, **OAuth2/OIDC**, **GRPC**
- Observability:**Prometheus**, **NewRelic Grafana**, **Datadog**

Project Highlights

- **Integrations (Sainsbury's)**: Automated API onboarding with **GitHub Actions** and **TypeScript**, integrated **OpenAPI/AsyncAPI** into **SwaggerHub**, and designed internal PaaS services for request state and authorisation
- **SmartShop (Sainsbury's)**: Migrated PHP to Go microservices, optimised memory usage, and integrated with external teams using **gRPC** and **GraphQL**
- **Groceries Online (Sainsbury's)**: Led platform migration to Kubernetes, overhauled secrets management, and improved delivery with SSR and microservices
- **Baanx (Fintech)**: Re-architected core web/crypto infrastructure with Go, ECS, and Keycloak for identity management under compliance constraints
- **Barbourne Brook**: Delivered an event-driven data pipeline in Go, replacing a fragile PHP app, enabling new high-value customers
- **RS Components**: Delivered PCI-compliant internal payment system and supported eCommerce modernisation using Spring Boot and Docker

Technology Stack

- **Languages**: Go, Java, Node.js/TypeScript, Scala, PHP, Python, Solidity
- **Cloud & Infra**: AWS (ECS, EKS, Lambda), Terraform, Helm, Docker, Nomad
- **Messaging**: Kafka, RabbitMQ, gRPC, GraphQL, REST
- **Databases**: PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Redis, InfluxDB
- **Observability**: Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog, Kibana
- **CI/CD**: GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, custom internal tooling
- **Security**: OAuth2, OIDC, Keycloak, Vault, secrets automation

Ways of Working

- Experienced with **remote-first teams**, cross-functional collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.
- Advocate of **TDD**, **pair programming**, and clean developer experience (DevEx)
- Trusted to lead **platform rebuilds**, technical migrations, and **internal tooling** delivery