

JACQUI LOUGH *(formerly Jacqui Maher)*

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PROFILE

News applications developer building the pipelines, platforms and tools behind interactive journalism. At The New York Times I worked on three Olympics projects, live coverage, reader submission and audience analytics systems, and helped turn one-off projects into reliable tools. Since then, I have built an automated results pipeline at the BBC, led interactive journalism for Condé Nast's Vogue markets, and developed publishing tools for small newsrooms at News Catalyst.

SKILLS

- **Front-end:** JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, D3, React, Next.js, Vue, Tailwind, and Svelte.
- **Back-end and data:** Go, Python, Ruby (Rails, Sinatra), Node.js. PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, MongoDB. Data pipelines and scrapers.
- **Infrastructure:** AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Vercel, Linux, Terraform, CloudFormation, Chef, Varnish caching, static publishing.
- **Newsroom tools:** CMS and editorial workflow tools, Google Docs integrations, live blogs, reader submission, audience analytics.
- **Practices:** Web standards and accessibility, test-driven and behavior-driven development, working with editors and designers on deadline.

EXPERIENCE

Career Break

2022-now

Full-time caregiver while studying public health at Adelaide University.

Lead Developer

2020-2022

News Catalyst, Temple University | Remote

- Built a custom CMS and a set of Google Docs plugins in JavaScript that let editors and reporters write in Docs and manage tags, publishing schedules and other metadata from a sidebar.
- Ran the production systems on Google Cloud Platform, including APIs, integrations and publishing workflows.
- Supported small newsrooms in News Catalyst's twice-yearly nonprofit cohorts, working directly with editors and reporters.
- Contributed to PressPass, News Catalyst's single sign-on suite for news tools.

Head of Interactive Journalism

2016-2018

Condé Nast International | London, UK

- Built and led a global interactive journalism team supporting international Vogue brands, recruiting and coordinating editorial, design and engineering talent across markets.
- Developed experimental journalism products and editorial tools, including the first fashion industry messaging chatbot for British Vogue.
- Partnered with international teams to explore structured fashion data and new models for content distribution.

Interactive Journalist

2015-2016

BBC News Labs | London, UK

- Built an automated results graphics pipeline for the 2016 EU Referendum, in collaboration with BBC Visual Journalism, that published graphics to social media as each district's results came in. The code was reused for the 2016 US presidential election.
- Produced a multilingual interactive graphic exploring the drug trade in Guinea-Bissau.
- Created several news bots including BBCUzbek on Telegram to circumvent censorship.
- Worked in Cape Town with young open source developers from low-income communities to develop product ideas, implementation plans and ways to keep building after the BBC team left

Research Engineer, R&D Labs

2014-2015

The New York Times | New York, NY

- Continued building streamtools and worked with the newsroom analytics team.
- Built Hive, a standalone crowdsourcing platform, which powered the Madison site for annotating ads from the archives.
- Prototyped new article formats and writing tools, including a smart editor that ran named entity extraction as you wrote, to tag stories automatically.

Assistant Editor, Interactive News

2009-2014

The New York Times | New York, NY

- Worked on three Olympics projects (Vancouver 2010, London 2012, Sochi 2014), co-leading London and leading Sochi.
- Contributed data pipeline features to the election results system over several election cycles, and to its architecture and traffic planning
- Helped set up the newsroom analytics desk and built early versions of streamtools to feed audience data into charts and internal dashboards.
- Worked on custom live blog platform and user-generated content platforms, including the full submission system for A Moment in Time (form builder, submission form, image upload service, moderation dashboard).
- Collaborated with graphics and computer-assisted reporting staff to turn one-off hacks into reliable publishing tools.
- Built a data integration system for humanitarian information exchange after the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Chief Technology Officer

2009

Eastmedia, New York, NY

Led remote and onsite development teams and managed servers and systems with Chef and AWS.

Freelance and contract work in 2008 and 2009 included Spot.Us (public interface and backend for a crowdfunded news tips platform), IDEO (led design and development of an internal project site), Hashrocket (Ruby and Rails).

Open Source Volunteer Contributor

2007-2009

Baobab Health Trust, Remote & Lilongwe, Malawi

Developer on the Baobab Anti-Retroviral Treatment (BART) system for HIV/AIDS treatment. Led adoption of behavior-driven development. Worked remotely for several years and onsite in Lilongwe in summer 2008.

Senior Software Engineer

2007-2009

StreetEasy, New York, NY

Built web scrapers and data pipelines that pulled listings from hundreds of real estate sites into one database, plus partner APIs, an in-site email system, Varnish caching and query tuning.

Senior Web Developer

2006-2007

Live Nation, San Francisco, CA & Los Angeles, CA

Lead developer and architect of a Ruby on Rails ticketing platform built for on-sale traffic spikes, with single sign-on across multinational registration systems and localization into several languages.

Senior Web Developer

2004-2006

Friendster, Mountain View, CA

Built a new streamlined, responsive platform, architected and developed Friendster Groups, in-site email and notifications with spam controls, and profile privacy levels. Promoted web standards and contributed to in-house style guides.

News Applications Developer

2000-2003

Hearst Interactive Studios, New York, NY

Made Esquire's Drinks Database interactive, built Popular Mechanics' CMS, and wrote quiz generation and scoring tools for Cosmopolitan.

Awards and Speaking

- News and Documentary Emmy nomination for Coming Out (The New York Times).
- Speaker at international journalism conferences, including NICAR, International Journalism Festival, Hacks/Hackers, Reuters Institute at Oxford University. Judge, Online Journalism Awards (multiple years).

REFERENCE

Aron Pilhofer aronpilhofer@gmail.com, former editor, Interactive News, The New York Times; former director, News Catalyst.