Harry Dobrev
Technology, Startups, Strategy

Software engineering manager with 14 years of experience in software and startups. Ex-CTO, managed engineers and managers for 6 years. Generalist, thinking about the whole product - from speed and simplicity for the end-user to the maintainability and re-usability of the code. I love open-source and I try to contribute back to the community on which we rely on.

- Sofia, Bulgaria
- harry@hkdobrev.com
- hkdobrev.com
- hkdobrev (LinkedIn)
- hkdobrev (GitHub)
- hkdobrev (Twitter)
- Harry Dobrev (StackOverflow)

Work

Percent

Engineering Manager

Mar 2022 – Present

Percent allows you to quickly and easily build purpose into what you do. Percent runs the biggest nonprofit verification programmes and provides donation infrastructure.

- Working on the Verifications product running the biggest nonprofit programmes in the world
- Launched a dozen of new customers like Google, Microsoft, Canva and Atlassian
- Grew the monthly volume of verifications 50 times
- Acted as a technical contact for Verifications customers
- Managed and coached engineers. Doubled the team over 2 years
- Simplified Verifications API and introduced new automations

Uber

Sr Software Engineer

Jun 2021 – Mar 2022

Joined Uber Sofia Engineering team to grow more in the field of distributed systems.

- Worked at the Fintech department at Uber in the Tax Invoices team.
- Focused on e-invoicing and external integrators.
- Acquired new skills in distributed engineering, Golang and Python.

Clippings (MaterialBank company)

Chief Architect

Jan 2020 – May 2021

Clippings is a interior design platform for interior designers to discover products from the largest online catalogue and manage their interior design projects from inspiration to instalation. (Acquired by Material Bank in 2021)

- Worked with external partners and customers on white-labeling the software.
- Formed cross-team functional working groups within engineering department.
- Worked with tech leads, engineering managers, product managers and stakeholders across multiple organisations.

CTO

Feb 2016 – Dec 2019

Clippings is a interior design platform for interior designers to discover products from the largest online catalogue and manage their interior design projects from inspiratio to instalation.

- Scaled the engineering team from 3 to 30 people.
- Worked on strategy and objectives for the company through multiple pivots and evolutions of the business.
- Participated in technical due diligence in investment rounds.
- Guided the technology direction and budget in the business.

Software Engineer

Feb 2012 – Jan 2016

Clippings is a interior design platform for interior designers to discover products from the largest online catalogue and manage their interior design projects from inspiratio to instalation.

- I worked as a full-stack developer throughout the whole product.
- Worked on transitioning the platform to the B2B business model.
- Helped with recruitment.
- Introduced new technologies in the stack.

Despark

Software Engineer

Apr 2011 – Jul 2014

Worked on clients' projects like startups in UK, USA and marketing agencies in Bulgaria.

- Worked with startup clients like OurLabel, TopLeagueFootball.
- Developed the back-end of the award-winning AUBG website.
- Done full-stack development with PHP/JavaScript/MySQL.
- Introduced newer framework versions to the company projects.
- Developed several Facebook apps for marketing clients in Bulgaria like IKEA, Becks and others.

TranSYS BG

Web Developer

Jun 2010 – Apr 2011

Worked with clients in an agency on Joomla/PHP/JavaScript development and on-site SEO

- Worked with clients in Bulgaria and United Kingdom on Joomla websites and SEO.
- Headed the development of clients' projects with multiple developers.
- Managed communication with external clients on some of the projects.

Volunteer

Yes, Bulgaria

Member, Activist

Jan 2017 – Present

Part of an up and coming political party fighting for judical reforms and modernization of the country.

- Worked on the back-end of the open-source TiBroish platform for more transparent elections in Bulgaria.
- Helped with on-site SEO problems and security attacks against Wordpress website.

Tuk-Tam

Member

Jul 2020 – Present

Tuk-Tam is a non-profit aiming to connect the Bulgarian diaspora throughout the world and helps students with stipends to study abroad.

Education

Software University "Svetlin Nakov"

Software Engineering

May 2014 – Jun 2015

Bachelor

Courses

- C# Basics
- Java Basics
- PHP Basics
- JavaScript Basics
- Web Fundamentals
- Teamwork and Personal skills
- Object Oriented Programming
- Quality Code
- JavaScript Advanced
- JavaScript Applications

Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski"

Software Engineering
Oct 2010 – May 2011

Bachelor

Courses

- Linear Algebra
- Calculus
- Discrete structures
- Object Oriented Programming
- English

Mathematics High School "Konstantin Velichkov"

Informatics, Mathematics, English
Sep 2005 – May 2010

High School

Courses

- Informatics
- Competitive Informatics
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- English
- Physics
- History

Projects

You Count (Ti Broish)

Nov 2020 – Present

Open-source platform for fair elections in Bulgaria

- Developed the whole platform back-end with NestJS

- Successfully competed with the Central Elections Commission and pushed them to improve
- Coordinated dozens of engineers working on infrastructure, backend, frontend and mobile
- Worked with marketing, operations and legal

American University in Bulgaria website

Feb 2014 – Jun 2014

Developed backend of AUBG with a custom CMS for the university needs

- Custom CMS with building blocks for events, media, schedules, campus
- Integration with student alumni network
- Website won multiple awards for its design and versatility

OpenBuildings (MaterialBank company)

Dec 2012 – Jun 2013

OpenBuildings was a crowd-sourced website for buildings targeted at architects, students and tourists. It was funded by Index Ventures in 2011. We pivoted to Clippings in 2012.

- Created the professional profiles for architecture companies at OpenBuildings.
- Introduced subscription payments for premium profiles of architecture companies as the first monetization.

Awards

SEO on-site optimization - young talents (BG Site)

Awarded by **SEOM**
Nov 2010

https://web.archive.org/web/20101125134349/http://blog.bgsite.org/?p=222

Publications

Automating processes with JavaScript & Git

Published by **DEV.BG JavaScript Talks**
Jun 2019

Using tools like Husky, lint-changed and run-if-changed to wrap personal and team development processes with Git and Javascript

Open-Source Contributions

Published by **Bulgaria OpenFest**
Oct 2016

Closing keynote at OpenFest 2016 on the topic of contributing to open-source - what this means, how to do it and why

Upgrading to PHP 7

Published by **Bulgaria PHP Conference**
Oct 2016

Lightning talk on how to upgrade to PHP 7 in a safe and reliable manner

Dependency injection and reusable service providers

Published by **PHP User Group**
Sep 2016

Technical talk about dependency injection, containers, service providers and reusing them across frameworks

Composer Tips & Tricks

Published by **PHP User Group**
Mar 2016

Composer tips & tricks for beginners and advanced users

Development workflow

Published by **Bulgaria Web Summit**
May 2014

Best practices in development workflow: Git, GitHub, Unit testing, Continuous integration

Things I learned from the jQuery source

Published by **jQuery Bulgaria conference**
Oct 2013

Examples of good and interesting JavaScript practices picked up from the jQuery source code.

Skills

Backend Development

TypeScript   Node.js   NestJS

PHP   PostgreSQL   MySQL

Bash   Python   Apache

Object-oriented programming

Functional programming

SOLID principles   Design patterns

Domain-driven design   MVC

Symfony   Silex   OAuth

REST APIs   HTTP protocol

Database architecture

Frontend Development

HTML   CSS   JavaScript   SASS

ReactJS   Browser extensions

AngularJS   Webpack   jQuery

jQuery plugin development

Google Maps JavaScript SDK

DevOps

Infrastructure

Git   GitHub Actions   Travis CI   AWS   Terraform   Ansible

Git Hooks   Development Tools   Linux   Docker   Vagrant

Linode   Capistrano

Management

Hiring   Budgeting   Interviewing

Personal development

Goal setting   Coaching

Collaboration   Transparency

Strategy & Product

Data-driven

Technical account management

OKRs   Rolling horizon planning

Budgeting

Data Science & Machine Learning

Data collection   Data scraping

ETLs   Feature extraction

Statistics   Jupiter Notebooks

Anaconda   Tensorflow   LLMs

Languages

English
Fluent

Bulgarian
Native speaker

French, Spanish, Italian
Beginner

Interests

Open-Source

Elections platform   dotfiles

bash notetaker   community lists

Technology

Electric vehicles

Space exploration   Physics

Astronomy

Politics

Fair elections

Access to journalism

Election systems   Economics

References

Harry is one of the most curious and fast learning developers I have worked with. He is persistent, hard-working, very ambitious, full of ideas, with a strong analytical mind and an eye for detail. The variety of his interests, his intelligence and the knowledge he has acquired, especially considering his age, would impress everyone.

— Simeon Dimitrov, worked as a peer in 2011