

BENJAMIN SIMPSON

Chief Technology Officer — Total Defence & Cognitive Resilience

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Technology executive with 10+ years experience bridging secure enterprise infrastructure, emerging decentralised technology, and creative media — the exact intersection where cognitive terrorism and hybrid warfare now operate. **Proven record of architecting resilient, distributed systems** for critical frontline services, delivering automation-driven resilience gains (30%+), and shipping commercially successful cryptographic products. **As CTO of Secrecy One Ltd, I set the technical strategy for citizen- and government-friendly technologies** at the service of Total Defence: building societies that fight wars, not just armed forces that fight battles.

CTO REMIT — SECREC ONE LTD

"Some people sell secrets. We sell secrecy."

Leading software discovery, consulting, and design (in-house) with engineering and distribution delivered in-partnership, against the threat of cybercrime-as-cyberwarfare facing UK and European nation-states in the EU/EEA — particularly the Nordics and Baltics as doctrine exemplars.

Portfolio under technical ownership:

- **Verify Home** — architectural leadership of the flagship citizen-resilience platform: affordable, legal, compliant tooling that helps citizens and SMEs defend against the cognitive and technological dimensions of hybrid and asymmetrical warfare, grounded in Nordic Total Defence principles applied to current UK and European security doctrines.
- **Verify Plus** — technical direction of the CISO-facing platform supporting the gradual decentralisation of highly centralised corporate infrastructures now exposed to immensely penetrative AI software, tools, and platforms, alongside conventional dark-side hacking.
- **Verify Away** — delivery of countermeasures against cognitive attack and psychosocial street coercion, including threat surfaces opened by smart glasses and mixed-reality devices.
- **I-VE_SPACE** — stewardship of the Intuition Validation Engine (formulated 2019) and its mission: secrecy-positive sovereign democracies and secrecy-positive workplaces for the long haul — restoring pencil-and-paper-equivalent secrecy to the digital sphere.

Standing responsibilities: Worst-case-scenario threat modelling; ensuring all Verify configurations remain citizen- and government-friendly, legal, and compliant for the foreseeable; engineering cost-effectiveness so resilience is accessible to everyone, not only institutions; and translating Total Defence blueprints into implementable, distributable technology across democratic security cultures.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS (CTO-CAPABILITY)

- **Brokering resilience ecosystems:** Delivered £500k+ in innovation funding for 15 SMEs by vetting technical roadmaps and brokering partnerships with universities and specialist tech firms — directly transferable to building the multi-stakeholder networks Total Defence demands of a whole-of-society model.
- **Shipped cryptographic product at scale:** Launched a sold-out blockchain product (24-hour sellout) — the first NFT project on the Cosmos ecosystem — requiring smart contract design, decentralised storage strategy (IPFS), and full go-to-market execution. Demonstrates end-to-end delivery of decentralised, provenance-critical technology.
- **Hardened critical national-infrastructure-adjacent services:** Maintained 99%+ uptime for mission-critical frontline health and social care systems over 2+ years across 40+ geographically dispersed sites — resilience engineering for services where failure harms the most vulnerable.
- **AI-driven defensive automation:** Drove a 30% operational resilience gain through enterprise-wide automation (Power Automate + AI integration) across a 200+ user organisation — the same AI-integration capability needed to counter AI-enabled offensive tooling.

DOMAIN CAPABILITIES

Domain	Applied to Total Defence
Resilient Infrastructure	Cloud & hybrid architecture · Active Directory · M365 governance · Virtualisation · Network & hardware lifecycle · VOIP · DR/BCP · Vendor & SLA management — hardening distributed estates against both technical failure and hostile interference
AI & Counter-Cognitive Operations	AIOps (Google AI Certified 2026) · Power Platform · LLM integration · Workflow transformation · Process intelligence — understanding offensive AI in order to engineer defensive and cognitive-resilient
Decentralised Engineering & Delivery	React · GitHub · Containerisation (Docker) · API strategy · UI/UX governance · Blockchain architecture (Ethereum, IPFS, Cosmos) — the technical substrate for Verify Plus decentralisation and digital
Emerging Threat Surfaces	Generative AI · IoT · Mixed Reality (Unity/VR) · Digital provenance · Web3 product strategy — fluency in the exact media and device classes (VR/AR, smart glasses, synthetic media) through which cognitive attacks are delivered
Media & Information Environment	Broadcast production workflows · Drone operations (CAA/FAA) · Adobe Creative Suite · High-bitrate post-production — insider command of the broadcast and content pipelines that carry influence

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

IT Systems Coordinator (Infrastructure & Applications Lead) Options for Supported Living · Liverpool · July 2022 – Present

Sole senior technology leader reporting to operations director. Managing all infrastructure, applications, security, and automation for a 200+ user health & social care organisation — citizen-critical services that cannot tolerate compromise.

- **Distributed estate resilience:** Set the roadmap for cloud identity (M365), endpoint management, and network resilience across 40+ geographically dispersed sites — defence-in-depth for frontline care delivery.
- **AI-assisted workflow defence:** Led an organisation-wide shift from manual processes to AI-assisted workflows, reducing administrative overhead by 30% without headcount change — practical experience of deploying AI in mission-critical, safeguarding-sensitive contexts.
- **Risk, compliance & governance:** Owned IT budget, vendor negotiations, and SLA governance, achieving 100% SLA compliance and 99%+ system uptime for frontline care teams — the same legal-and-compliant-first posture Secrecy One mandates for all Verify products.
- **Inclusive, secrecy-positive design governance:** Established accessible design standards (voice control, high-contrast UI) across internal and external systems — precedent for human-centred, dignity-preserving technology that works for every citizen.

Creative Technologist & Commercial Drone Pilot (Freelance) Self-employed · Liverpool · March 2018 – July 2024

Delivered technical production services to BBC, Liverpool FC, Amazon Prime, Channel 4, and Sky News — sustained immersion in the mainstream media pipelines through which modern information and cognitive environments are shaped.

- **Technical pipeline ownership:** Designed end-to-end capture-to-post workflows for broadcast-grade aerial cinematography, including 4K/60fps encoding and colour-accurate handoffs — mastery of the fidelity standards needed to distinguish authentic from manipulated media.
- **Regulatory leadership under real-world conditions:** Maintained three concurrent commercial drone certifications (UK CAA A2, FAA Part 107, OFQUAL Level 4), audited and renewed annually — operating advanced sensor platforms within strict legal and regulatory boundaries across jurisdictions.

Innovation & Research Coordinator FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology) · Liverpool · April 2018 – March 2020

- **Innovation ecosystem design:** Built a regional partnership network connecting 30+ SMEs with university R&D and technical specialists — the whole-of-society coalition-building muscle that Total Defence requires.
- **Provenance & trust infrastructure:** Designed decentralised digital provenance systems (Ethereum + IPFS) and led VR/AR production for public exhibitions using Unity — early

applied work on authenticity verification in blended physical-digital realities, foundational to the Verify Away and I-VE_SPACE concepts.

Earlier career (available on request): Service Desk Lead (Tata Consultancy Services) · Broadband/Faults Management (TalkTalk) · Web & Catalogue (New Orleans)

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- Google AI Professional Certificate (Feb 2026)
- OFQUAL Level 4 Commercial Drone Operations
- FAA Part 107 (USA) · UK CAA A2 Commercial License
- BA (Hons) Electronic Media — University of Westminster
- Blockchain Development (University of Liverpool, 2023)