

Girish Gupta



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I am an analytical thinker combining training as a physicist with entrepreneurship, creativity and an ability to communicate complex ideas. I've applied this to everything from programming and startups to investigative and multimedia journalism. As a freelancer, I worked with outlets including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times* across hostile environments in Latin America and the Middle East, with a base in Venezuela where I joined *Reuters*. At the same time, I wrote software detailing that country's crisis. I'm now switching focus to tech, science and my own company.

Founder, *Data Drum, Inc.*

April 2018 – Present

Creator, *Venezuela Econ*

December 2014 – Present

- Created the go-to hub on one of the world's most opaque countries, used by 15,000 people including politicians and investors.
- Wrote iOS, Android and web apps, as well as an API, providing live and historic economic and social data, customizable/interactive graphs, calculators, election results, asylum data and a flight-tracker on Venezuela's meltdown.
- Did everything from back- and front-end programming to logo- and user-interface-design—as well as marketing.
- Backend in PHP and MySQL to deliver data in JSON to frontend website in PHP, JavaScript, CSS and HTML; iOS app in Swift; and Android app in Java. All hosted on an AWS LAMP stack. Implemented Bootstrap, ShinobiCharts, amCharts, Google Firebase and Google AdMob libraries, as well as the Stripe payment API. Used Git for version control.

Senior Correspondent, *Reuters*, based in Caracas

June 2015 – Present

- Exclusively revealed the results of a national Venezuelan election were fabricated; secrets about the country's opaque military, including surface-to-air missile inventories and soldiers' arrests for treason and rebellion; that the country's Chief Justice was arrested on suspicion of murder and separately tried to persuade a judge to release a suspected arms/drug trafficker; and high-level, multi-billion dollar corruption at Venezuela's state oil company.
- Produced text, photos and TV pieces on Venezuela's hyperinflation, social decay, food riots, protests and looting.
- Worked in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as built high-level sources in Washington, New York, and across Latin America.
- Wrote code to automate story-writing, data-gathering, social media and office admin.
- Helped coordinate security on the ground and digitally (introducing PGP, secure messaging etc.)

Freelance journalist, *Reuters, New Yorker, New York Times, TIME, BBC, NPR, Guardian, USA Today, FT...*, based in Caracas

October 2010 – May 2015

- Produced text, photos, video, and radio in Venezuela, as well as Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, Jordan, Lebanon, Peru, and Mexico, for more than 40 news outlets.
- Covered the cancer, election and death of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, the messy transition to Nicolás Maduro's rule and the crisis that followed. This included violent unrest which I covered daily on the streets.
- Investigated diamond smuggling from illegal jungle mines in the Amazon basin, Glencore's involvement with Colombian paramilitaries, and the killing of wildcat gold miners linked to a large multinational there.
- Held many news outlets to account by fining those who paid late and taking to court those refusing to pay fines.
- Conducted on-the-ground investigations for *Control Risks*, *K2 Intelligence* and *Ergo* across the region.

Physics (MPhys) at *University of Manchester, England*

September 2006 – June 2010

- Abstract to Master's project — a computer simulation of the heart exploring the causes of atrial fibrillation — published in the *Proceedings of The Physiological Society*. Bachelor's project on negative index of refraction.
- News editor at the *Mancunian* student newspaper for two years.
- Member of British Army *Officers' Training Corps*. First aid, weapons handling, leadership, and military tactics, for one year.
- Teaching placement, including giving lessons, with the *Student Associate Scheme*, for three weeks.
- Interned at various news outlets, including the *Guardian* and *The Times of London*, and worked various bar jobs.

Natural Sciences: Math, Physics, Chemistry and Geology at *King's College, Cambridge University, England*

September 2005 – June 2006

- Social Secretary at *Cambridge University Canoe Club*.

Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology (A-Levels) at *Burnham Grammar School, England*

September 2003 – June 2005

- Physics projects included a flash-rate monitor and a research project on Special Relativity.
- Worked also at a bookshop and various bar, waiting jobs.

Creator, *Music Goes On, Ltd.*

May 2000 – November 2001

- Built a music news, reviews website listed by *MTV* as one of the web's top 20 sources, alongside *Billboard* and *VH1*.
- Written in PHP and MySQL, with HTML, CSS and JavaScript for the frontend.
- Assembled computers and wrote a browser, messenger, BPM counter, and word processor in Delphi and C++.

Languages: **English, Spanish, Hindi/Urdu/Punjabi**, basic/intermediate **Arabic**, starting to learn **French**.