

Girish Gupta

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I am an analytical and clear thinker combining training as a physicist with curiosity, creativity and an ability to communicate complex ideas. I've applied this to everything from programming and building startups to investigative and multimedia journalism. As a reporter, I worked with outlets including Reuters, The New Yorker and The New York Times across Latin America and the Middle East, with a base in Venezuela, one of the world's toughest reporting environments. As well as conducting major investigations and covering the crisis there on the streets, I created apps used by thousands of people to help explain the country's disastrous economy. I'm now expanding that into my own company.

Founder/CEO, Data Drum, Inc.

May 2018 – Present

- Built up a company offering clean and automated macroeconomic and social data to help explain the world to everyone from hedge fund analysts to people on the street.
- Met with clients, investors and others across the world and in many industries interested in the company and its products.
- Led a team including developers, economists and regional experts.
- Built database structure and backend for entire AWS-hosted platform in PHP linked to Amazon Aurora MySQL databases, as well as frontend website in PHP, JavaScript, CSS and HTML. Managed—to the level of code-editing—the creation of iOS and Android apps in React Native, an API in Node.js and a Microsoft Excel add-in in JavaScript, as well as scrapes in Python and PHP.

Creator, Venezuela Econ

December 2014 – April 2018

- 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 graphs, calculators, and a flight-tracker on Venezuela's meltdown.
- Did all back- and front-end programming, design as well as social media and 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 a AWS. Implemented Bootstrap, jQuery, ShinobiCharts, amCharts, Twilio, 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 – May 2018

- Exclusively revealed, with internal electoral council documents, that the results of a national Venezuelan election were fabricated; secrets about the country's opaque military, including documents showing surface-to-air missile inventories and numbers of soldiers arrested 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, with intelligence documents and audio; and high-level, multi-billion dollar corruption at Venezuela's state oil company, with internal documents and audio.
- Produced text, photos and TV on Venezuela's hyperinflation, social decay, food riots and protests.
- Worked in Iraq and Afghanistan. Built 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.
- Investigated diamond smuggling from illegal jungle mines in the Amazon, Glencore's involvement with Colombian paramilitaries, and the killing of wildcat gold miners linked to a multinational there.
- Filed many Freedom of Information requests to British government.
- Conducted on-the-ground investigations for *Control Risks*, *K2 Intelligence* and *Ergo*.
- Held many news outlets to account by fining and taking to court those who paid late.

Physics (MPhys) at University of Manchester, England

September 2006 – June 2010

- Abstract to Master's project — a computer simulation (written in C) of the heart exploring atrial fibrillation — published in the *Proceedings of The Physiological Society*. Bachelor's project on negative index of refraction. First year essay on the physics of music.
- News editor at the *Mancunian* student newspaper for two years. Briefly hosted a radio show.
- 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 news outlets, including the *Guardian* and *The Times of London*, and 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 supermarket, bookshop and various bar, waiting jobs.

Creator, Music Goes On

May 2000 – November 2001

- Built a music news and reviews website listed by *MTV* as one of the then nascent 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 messenger, BPM counter and other things in Delphi and C++.

Languages: **English, Spanish, Hindi/Urdu**, basic/intermediate **Arabic**, learning **French**.

Interests: **Photography; music (piano, guitar); science, history of science; health and fitness.**