



Connel Hooley

Web • C# • **Lead Developer**

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Background

I am a 31-year-old software engineer based in Norwich. My preferred language is **C#** although I also have experience with web technologies such as **Node.js** and **React**.

I take an interest in **F#** and functional programming, I have written an in-depth article introducing C# developers to F# that you can find [here](#). I also have experience with the Actor model via **Akka.NET**. I wrote an Akka.NET unit test framework that you can find [here](#). I developed a website for a wedding stationer using Gatsby.JS, Tailwind CSS and AWS Amplify which you can find [here](#).

My hobbies include playing football and tennis. I am a Newcastle United fan.

Experience

Lead Developer Aviva

Jan 2022 – Present

In 2022 I was promoted to Lead Developer at Aviva. This involved moving to a new team. During this role I mostly provide support to developers in the team by performing activities such as gatekeeping pull requests and providing technical advice. I provide support to the business by performing activities such as high-level estimates, aiding backlog prioritisation and raising work-items.

The team works on a large number of **ASP.NET MVC** applications. They target .NET Framework but there is a large migration project being undertaken to migrate them to .NET 6.

Applications Developer Aviva

Apr 2018 – Dec 2021

During this role I predominantly worked on a greenfield project, aimed at minimising duplication amongst various code bases within the business. The project used **Akka.NET** for its backend and **SignalR** to update a **React** SPA on the front-end. My existing knowledge of Akka.NET was very valuable to the team. Upon my arrival in the team, I quickly provided value by improving the stability of the unit tests for the solution which often required re-runs to pass.

One year into the role I became a tech lead, which gave me lead developer gate keeping responsibilities. I also worked the role of **lead developer** on multiple projects. This involved raising stories, assisting with backlog prioritisation, gathering requirements, liaising with the business, assisting other developers in team, gate-keeping pull requests, managing dev ops pipelines, doing production deployments and running scrum ceremonies when the scrum master was unavailable.

During my time at Aviva in this role I also wrote a simple service virtualisation tool that multiple teams used for over a year as an alternative to LISA/Dev Test before the business migrated to **WireMock**. This was written in **TypeScript** and **Node.js**.



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Applications Developer Modality Systems

Feb 2015 – Mar 2018

During this role I worked on various solutions built around **Skype For Business**. I helped the dev team build out release pipelines in **VSTS** and embrace TDD & testing automation. This involved a large mentality shift with regards to how QA was approached. We tried to involve our testers as early as possible with each user story. I particularly enjoyed embracing TDD.

I led the design of one project that involved the co-ordinating of over 50 machines. It used **Akka.NET** and **SignalR** to achieve the distributed computing required. The machines could be configured using an **Angular2 TypeScript** web application. During this project we hired a junior dev whom I mentored which was an extremely rewarding experience. I was also stand-in scrum master for this project. I was involved in various Microsoft TAP programs during my time in this role which was very interesting.

Applications Developer C A Design Services

Jan 2014 – Jan 2015

This was my first development role. I initially performed small support tasks and developed in-house **.NET** solutions. I then moved on to developing enhancements and bug fixes to existing products. These systems were usually 3-tier **ASP.NET Web Form** Applications with **T-SQL** databases. I eventually began working on new projects and was the first person at the company to make a website using an ORM back-end (**Entity Framework**) and the MVC design pattern (**ASP.NET MVC**). My first project was for the large retail firm Sainsbury's. I also began writing unit tests for the first time during my time at C A Design Services.

Qualifications

BSc Hons in Software Engineering

University of East Anglia 2010 – 2013

2:2

BTEC National Diploma in ICT

Great Yarmouth College 2008 – 2010

Triple distinction

GCSEs

Cliff Park High School 2002 – 2006

Grade A: English Language

Grade B: English Literature

Grade C: Science × 2, Maths, Statistics, ICT, Electronics, Art, PE, RE