Nathaniel Read

✉ n@thaniel.uk
🖥 na.thaniel.uk
○ itisNathaniel
🐦 meetNathaniel

Profile

Full-stack Software Engineer proficient in developing rich, accessible and scalable solutions for web, e-commerce, IoT and more. Experienced working in multi-disciplinary Agile teams and with stakeholders, as well as recruiting, onboarding and mentoring early-career engineers.

Skills

JavaScript: Proficient in JavaScript and TypeScript with over 4 years of experience building scalable applications; from building React applications and reusable components to engineering high-traffic Node.js smart-home APIs.

Amazon Web Services: More than 4 years of experience building and implementing high-traffic and scalable applications on AWS, managing infrastructure using Terraform and CloudFormation as well as working on cloud cost and compliance, recently achieving over 40% reduction in service log costs.

Continuous Integration and Delivery: Implemented and worked with different CI and CD solutions including AWS CodeBuild & CodePipeline, CircleCI, GitHub Actions and Azure to build reliable and efficient pipelines. Working to migrate Jenkins pipelines to CodePipeline as part of my current guild work.

Agile Methodologies: Experience working in software engineering teams using different Scrum and Kanban methodologies, liaising with internal and external stakeholders, leading ceremonies and identifying ways to continuously improve team processes.

Experience

Senior Software Engineer / BBC
May 2023 - Present

Software Engineer / BBC
August 2022 - May 2023

- Develop and maintain the Live experience for News, Sports and Events which power some of the highest traffic pages across the BBC. Using React and Node to build new features and components. Contributing reusable, well-tested and accessible components to a shared Storybook component library.
- Lead development and spikes of new features, including introducing major work to simplify page logic, improve performance and reduce technical debt. Designed and implemented reliable automated tests for complex page logic, collaborated across teams and with less technical stakeholders to agree on an approach for how we approve our in-app UX to get the best outcome for the audience.
- Work cross-discipline to ensure features are delivered, requesting and responding to code reviews and RFCs from both within and outside the team. Diagnose and resolve operational issues, lead incident reviews and work with colleagues to make our services more reliable and resilient.
- Mentor and onboard graduate engineers, setting objectives and developing their skills, while also supporting recruitment through the assessment centre.

Graduate Software Engineer / BBC
December 2020 - August 2022

- Worked with teams in iPlayer & Sounds, News & Sport and Platform APIs. Led the development of a multivariate testing module for interactive TV, bringing shared experimentation logic to our iPlayer and Sounds on TV apps.
- Collaborated with UX and stakeholders to bring all local radio stations to the Sounds TV app, productionising a 10% time project. Successfully migrated a legacy on-premise application to Amazon EC2, achieving a significant increase in deployment success rate and cost savings through CI infrastructure optimisation and improved team efficiency by implementing automated notifications for build failures.
- Integrated Google Cloud language detection and translation into the BBC's metadata service providing automated tagging of global news articles and transcriptions, and collaborated with R&D on new machine learning engine requirements.

Software Engineer / sauce.dev

June 2019 - November 2020

- Proactively collaborated with the UK's leading heating manufacturer to identify feature requirements and develop a greenfield smart-home platform for remote control of boilers, smart heating systems, and commercial boilers.
- Used AWS with Serverless Framework, React and React Native to build applications. Implemented a RESTful API, MQTT and websockets for communication between IoT smart home devices and users through native apps and voice assistants.

Intern Software Engineer / EKM.com

June 2018 - September 2018

- Partnered with stakeholders to scope and prioritise new work, successfully migrated features and configurations from a legacy system, and developed new customer tools including an Instagram plugin in 10% time.
- Migrated ASP monolith to .NET with React SPA, designed API endpoints and added new unit, integration and UI tests. Worked with C# .NET, React & Redux to deliver new more responsive pages and a feature-rich user experience.

Education

BSc Computer Science / University of Hull

2017 - 2020

- Graduated First Class Hons. Experience with object-orientated programming, systems design, Agile methodologies, embedded systems, distributed systems and web technologies.
- Led and collaborated on multiple programming projects using Agile to create web and information system applications.
- Course & Subject Representative 2017-2020, chairing regular meetings with students and staff, and worked to provide suggestions and feedback on department-wide curriculum refresh.
- Facilitated Code First Girls course within the University, promoting diversity in the technology industry and providing new opportunities to get into coding.
- Co-founder and ex-president of Hull Computer Science Society (#hullCSS), a society which runs sessions with speakers, study sessions, networking events and helps students connect with industry professionals.

Certifications

Amazon Web Services / AWS Certified Developer - Associate   (2022)

British Computer Society / ISTQB® Certified Tester Foundation Level   (2018)

Duke of Edinburgh / Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards

Lazarus Training / First Aid Qualified   (2023)

Awards & Achievements

University of Hull / Best Departmental Academic Performance   (2019-20)

University of Hull / Best Honours Stage Academic Performance (CS)   (2019-20)

British Computer Society / BCS GreenIT International Winner   (2018)

Technology Interests

- Participate in hackathons such as BBC Product Group, BBCxMicrosoft, HackTrain and JISC, collaborating on projects ranging from building tools to show journalists real-time engagement figures for their posts, a computer-vision system that calculates crowd audience engagement and a smart campus app which got press coverage.
- Actively prototype new ideas and build new tools, a current personal project is building an 'if this then that' style tool for open banking APIs. I also contribute to new and existing open-source projects.
- Organise team-building and social events outside of work as part of the team social committee.
- Attend tech conferences to learn more about new technologies, frameworks and ideas as well as to network.
- Represent the BBC at Careers Fairs and enjoy supporting and advising engineers on their career paths.

Outside Technology

- I enjoy exploring the scenery of the Lake District and challenging myself with hikes. Additionally, I enjoy taking my dog to the beach and staying active by swimming regularly.

- Full UK Driving Licence

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