ILONA ZAIKA

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Full-Stack Web Developer with 7+ years of experience delivering scalable, maintainable web applications using the Microsoft .NET ecosystem and modern front-end frameworks. Proficient in C#, .NET Core, ASP.NET, Entity Framework, React, Redux, and Next.js, with strong expertise in PostgreSQL, SQL Server, and Redis, and proven success in cloud deployments on Azure and AWS.

After several years in corporate software engineering roles, I launched a solo consulting practice, delivering end-to-end freelance projects for UK clients — from technical audits and estimations to custom builds. Currently expanding my expertise into AI-driven solutions (n8n, LangChain, OpenAI API) to integrate automation and intelligent workflows into modern business applications. Actively seeking my next role in a collaborative, forward-thinking team.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Web Developer & AI Solutions Consultant
Solo Entrepreneur, United Kingdom   *4/2025 – Present*

- Provided **web consulting services** including technical audits, technology recommendations, and UI/UX feedback tailored to non-technical business owners.
- Managed the entire client lifecycle — from requirements gathering and budgeting to deployment and handover — ensuring smooth communication and on-time delivery.
- Delivered **three key projects** for UK-based clients:
  - **Durham Events — Webflow Rebrand (2025)**: Led audit → brand refresh → custom Webflow build. Migrated from WordPress to a mobile-first, CMS-driven site, enabling the client to independently manage content.
  - **YandMi — Technical Discovery (2025)**: Decomposed a complex, gamified e-commerce concept into functional phases with estimates. Delivered detailed technical documentation, clarifying scope and testing needs; received 5★ client feedback.
  - **Kobido Massage — Next.js Site (2025)**: Created brand positioning, design in Figma, custom Next.js build, and Mailchimp automation. Set up domain, Google My Business, and currently developing an **AI-powered Instagram content generator** using n8n and OpenAI API.

Career Break – 10/2023 – 4/2025

Software Engineer
Global Logic, Ukraine   1/2020 – 10/2023

- Delivered scalable features for a large healthcare project using **.NET Core** and **React**, ensuring high performance and reliability.
- **Implemented component-based architecture** using private packages with **Verdaccio**, enhancing reusability and consistency across the project.
- Leveraged **Azure Cloud Services** (Azure Functions, App Services, and Storage) to optimize application scalability and uptime.
- Collaborated in **Agile teams**, presenting technical updates and demos to stakeholders, fostering transparency and alignment.
- **Mentored and onboarded 3 developers** (2 junior, 1 mid-level), all of whom successfully transitioned into the team after probation.

Software Engineer

BullsEye Telecom, USA (remote part-time)   4/2019 – 1/2020

- Delivered critical hotfixes post-application migration to ensure stability and performance.
- Enhanced technical documentation

Web Developer

TEAM International, Ukraine   1/2019 – 1/2020

- Enhanced application performance with robust caching strategies and streamlined APIs.
- Migrated a WPF application to a web-based platform using Angular with extensive test coverage.
- Developed an offline-capable PWA using Redis and state-saving mechanisms for seamless user experience.
- Utilized SignalR for real-time updates, ensuring data consistency during connectivity changes.
- Boosted data flow efficiency through event-driven logic using RabbitMQ.

Junior .NET Developer

IT Craft, Ukraine   3/2018 – 1/2019

- Designed and optimized RESTful APIs for client-server communication.
- Implemented real-time notifications with SignalR, enhancing user engagement.
- Achieved 80% code coverage through thorough testing using xUnit.

EDUCATION

National Aerospace University "Kharkiv Aviation Institute", Kharkiv, Ukraine   2014 – 2020
Master, Software Engineering (2018 – 2020)
Bachelor, Software Engineering (2014 – 2018)

TECHNOLOGY STACK & TOOLS

Primary

- **Languages & Frameworks:** C#, .NET Core, ASP.NET, Entity Framework, LINQ, JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript, React, Redux, Next.js
- **Back-End Development:** RESTful APIs, Microservices Architecture, SignalR
- **Data Storage:** PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Redis
- **Cloud Services:** Azure (Functions, App Services, Storage)
- **DevOps & Deployment:** Docker, Docker Compose, Azure DevOps Pipelines, GitHub Actions, Vercel
- **Testing:** xUnit, Postman (API Testing)
- **Methodologies:** Agile, Scrum

Supporting

- **Front-End Tools:** Angular, HTML5, CSS3/SCSS, Responsive & Mobile-first Design, Figma (UI/UX prototyping), Webflow (custom & CMS)
- **Back-End Tools:** Node.js, Express, gRPC
- **AI & Automation:** LangChain, n8n, OpenAI API, AI-powered content workflows, automation scripting (JavaScript)

- **Other Databases & Storage:** MySQL, AWS S3, Azure Storage
- **Messaging & Event Streaming:** RabbitMQ, Azure Service Bus
- **Other Deployment Tools:** Serverless (Azure Functions)
- **Other Skills:** SEO optimization (technical & on-page), Website performance tuning, CMS migrations (WordPress → Webflow/Next.js), API integrations (REST), Authentication/Authorization (OAuth2, JWT)

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

1st Place – "Programmer 2018" Competition 2018
Borys Kolesnikov Fund

- Awarded first place in the national competition for developing a project to assist blind individuals in using public city transport.
- Earned a trip to the **CEATEC Conference Japan 2018**.

Best Paper Award – 25th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering (ICONE25) 2017
American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME), Chinese Nuclear Society (CNS)

- Won the best paper award for research on **cybersecurity in nuclear power plants**.
- Presented the paper at **ICONE25** in Shanghai, China, July 2017.

1st Place – NASA Space Apps Challenge (National Stage) 2017
NASA

- Won the national stage of the **NASA Space Apps Challenge** with a project focused on innovations in fire-fighting technology.
- Developed a prototype of a fire detection system.