

Mitchell Lawson-Burton

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Profile

I am an experienced agile leader that looks to enhance the productivity and impact of those around me. I have been a Senior Engineer and Tech Lead of high performing agile teams for several years. I demonstrate servant leadership and leading by example while empowering and coaching those around me.

- Agile leadership
- Commitment to quality and improving processes
- API design and development
- Technical documentation skills
- Experienced web developer
- Excellent communication skills
- Designed hiring processes
- Experience with:
 - React
 - TypeScript
 - JS ecosystem: Babel, Webpack, Node, Jest, Next.js, etc.
 - C# / MVC / ASP.NET Web API
 - AWS / Serverless
 - Continuous Integration / Continuous Delivery (CI/CD)
 - Automated UI and API Testing

Employment History

2022 – Present
Lead Software Engineer

GetSetUp

GetSetUp is an online education provider focused on older adults.

Key Achievements:

- Creation of the GetSetUp Embedded product. This provides partners the ability to embed GetSetUp video content on their site using an npm package. Deals are in progress, revenue impact TBD.
- Integration of the in-class user chat with Zendesk tickets. This allows one support agent to be the Teaching Assistant to many live and pre-record classes. This prevented the need to expand the support team and lowered the unit cost of classes to a point where they are profitable.
- Feature toggle system – integrated ConfigCat into the GraphQL API. This was mostly an exercise in changing dev culture rather than a technical project. This required coaching and leading the development team to improve standards and culture to a point where feature toggles are routinely used to reduce risk.
- Built an OAuth integration between GetSetUp and Circle.so to enable an experiment to grow a 55+ focused community. This experiment has mostly been mothballed, but the integration was built cheaply enough to make the experiment feasible in the first place.

Key Skills and Technologies:

- Developer Experience focus
- Technical writing
- Rapid prototype development
- Front-end TypeScript including React, Next.js, CSS-in-JS
- Back-end TypeScript including Node, RESTful APIs, GraphQL
- AWS: Lambda, RDS, Dynamo, SQS, CloudFront, CloudFormation/CDK
- GitHub Actions (CI/CD)

2017 – 2022

Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC)

Principal Engineer (2021 – 2022)

LIC is an agri-technology co-operative

Senior Software Engineer (2017 – 2021)

that is instrumental to the NZ dairy industry.

Key Achievements:

- Responsible for the creation of the Principal Engineer role. This included writing the position description and lobbying leadership.
- Designed the interview process for engineering recruitment. This led to several excellent hires. Several candidates have even described the process as enjoyable.
- Was the initiative owner for the introduction of companywide Staff Wi-Fi. This involved writing the business case and coordinating with a range of stakeholders from across the business.
- Provided key technical leadership for LIC's flagship web app: MINDA Live, a BI and farm management tool.

Key Skills and Technologies:

- Strong Agile Leadership.
- A focus on engineering as a craft, a process, and as a culture.
- Ability to communicate with a range of stakeholders.
- Node, TypeScript, React/Redux, ESLint, Jest
- AWS including Lambda, API Gateway, ECS, Terraform, RDS, Dynamo, SQS
- .NET and Node REST APIs
- Docker
- Teamcity / Octopus Deploy / GitHub Actions (CI/CD)

2016 – 2017

Web Developer

MetOcean Solutions

MetOcean is a marine weather company with a worldwide client base. It has since been acquired by the MetService.

Key Achievements:

Reduced downtime and increased developer productivity by:

- Introducing automated setup of production and test web servers using Ansible.
- Creating a deployment process.
- Championing quality control (code reviews, testing check lists, etc.).
- Creating BDD contract tests for the WXTiles API.

Key Skills and Technologies:

- Agile methodology
- React / Redux
- Node
- Docker
- Ansible
- Kong API Gateway
- Cloud Services (AWS / Digital Ocean)

2013 – 2016

Analyst Developer (2016)

Developer (2013 – 2016)

Enlighten Designs

Enlighten Designs is a digital consultancy and development agency.

Key Achievements:

- Became Tech Lead for an agile development team.
- Winning a client's hackathon by using Azure IOT technologies to record sensor data from the milking shed.

Key Skills and Technologies:

- Agile methodology
- C# / MVC / Web API / JavaScript web development
- React / Flux / Knockout / jQuery
- Test Driven Development (TDD) and Behaviour Driven Development (BDD)

Education & Awards

Certified SAFe 4 Practitioner

Scaled Agile Framework.

Graduate Diploma (Philosophy)

University of Waikato.

Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours (Computer Science)

University of Waikato.

Best Presentation — 2012 Student Project Conference

Dissertation Title: Using Wikipedia to determine knowledge domains.

Department of Computer Science, University of Waikato.

Summer Research Scholarship (2011–2012)

Project Title: An Automated Measure of Knowledge Source Independence.

University of Waikato.

Rudi Ziedins Prize in Philosophy (2011)

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Waikato.