

TARIQ SAIYAD

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My formal training is in Software Engineering but I have a passion for all areas of problem-solving. I have led projects and have a strong track record in delivering performant, scalable and accessible technical solutions. With end-to-end project experience, from requirements gathering to deployment, I bring a comprehensive skill set to drive successful outcomes. My aim is to leverage my technical and leadership skills to foster an inclusive team environment where shared continuous learning and collective growth is prioritised.

EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Education — Senior Software Engineer

April 2021 - Present

- Lead developer on [New Zealand's Education Curriculum \(NCEA\)](#) website.
- Current lead developer for the Ministry of Education website rebuild project. The website implements a new headless architecture by leveraging the strengths of **Drupal** as the content management backend and the industry standard **React** framework Next.js as the frontend to deliver exceptional user experience for content authors, end-users and developers.
- Developed and worked on **Drupal, Silverstripe, Next.js and Vue.js** websites and built web-accessible frontend components based on the ministry's design system.
- Providing mentorship and technical guidance to new and current developers through pair programming and code reviews, advising on good software practices and assisting in problem-solving with a strong focus on improving their skills as software engineers.
- Contributing to team upskilling by sharing learnings and solutions to complex problems. The sessions serve as a valuable resource for the team to reference for present and future projects.
- Developed an app using **Vue.js + Typescript** to help teachers calculate classroom ventilation and improve air quality. The app takes advantage of Vuex (state management), Typescript (type safety) and modular components for quicker and less error prone development.
- Worked with a range of AWS services and provided support to the DevOps team: **Cloudformation** to provision website infrastructure, **EC2 Image Builder** to provision standardised cloud environments for developers in the team, **Elastic Beanstalk** to upgrade and debug existing website infrastructure and **ECS** to support the new headless websites by extending the current infrastructure.

Haunt Digital — Full-Stack Developer

November 2019 - November 2020

- Worked on a wide range of frontend and backend projects, with technologies like **React, Ruby on Rails** and Drupal.
- Worked under **Agency Agile** methodologies and took part in project roadmap sessions with clients to gain full understanding of new projects.
- Had sole responsibility on a project to create a solution that enables teachers to make personalised lesson plans. A web application was designed and developed from the ground up using React.

PROJECTS

NCEA Education — *New Zealand curriculum website with resources, guidance and updates*

A **Drupal** website with Ministry of Education design system components built with Vue.js. During my term as lead developer on the project, I designed, implemented and oversaw numerous features and improvements on the website, including support for global English and Te Reo Māori translated content, advanced site search using **Algolia** and a complete homepage rebuild. I also took the initiative to refactor large sections of the website to improve the user experience, performance and code quality.

Student Planner — *Student workload management app*

A mobile application for my honours project that allows university students to track and plan their course work, assignments and projects. To solve the student procrastination problem, the app has a built-in gamification feature to further motivate students to complete their work on time. Made using Google **Flutter** and Firebase. Promotional images for the app can be found [here](#).

Outfitter — *Wardrobe organisational app*

A mobile application that lets users catalogue and organise clothing items. Users can search through items and mix and match to form outfits. Outfit combinations are saved and can be viewed later. The app also recommends clothes to wear based on the current weather. Made using **React Native** and Google Firebase.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Web Development	Typescript, Drupal, Next.js (React), Vue.js, Angular, Silverstripe
DevOps / Cloud	AWS, CDK, CI/CD pipelines
General	Javascript, Python, Flutter (Dart), Svelte, SQL, 3D modelling

SOFT SKILLS

Proven ability to **communicate project details** to cross-functional teams and understanding business needs in my roles at the Ministry of Education and Haunt Digital. I ensure smooth collaboration between developers, project designers and business analysts by taking an active role in estimating and delegating workloads for features and bug fixes. I ensure the developer perspective is present in these sessions to help address any potential issues or recommend alternative solutions early on.

I can **manage my time well** and keep calm under pressure. On numerous occasions I have successfully completed one-off projects with a limited budget from the requirements gathering stage to development. Crucially, this work was completed to a high degree of quality and was well-received.

I can **work effectively both as a team member and independently**. I have worked on multiple projects as a sole developer, but more importantly, I have led projects with other developers where I applied software development practices to promote seamless collaboration and maximised productivity.

I am **enthusiastic about and committed to any job** I undertake. Over the course of a Drupal project at the Ministry, I took the initiative to develop the website by leveraging Drupal's full feature set, diverging from our usual workflow. This presented new challenges that required problem-solving, but the end result is a website that is accessible to a wide range of users and easier to maintain for future developers. These insights were shared with the team and implemented in subsequent projects.

EDUCATION

Victoria University of Wellington — *Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Software Engineering*

March 2017 - November 2020

- First Class Honours
- Vice Chancellor's Scholarship
- Dean's List for academic excellence (Average grade of A) 2017-2020

Rongotai College

February 2013 - November 2016

- Proxime Accessit Award
 - Prefect and Peer leader
 - NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3 at Excellence Endorsement
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