

Hey all!

My name is Aidan Polivka, and I'm a full stack software engineer from Lincoln Nebraska. I was born and raised in the capital city Lincoln, and I spent 4 years in Crete Nebraska for my undergrad. Crete is a small town just southeast of Lincoln. I'm currently going to CTU in pursuit of a master's degree in computer science with a dual emphasis in software engineering and cyber security! At home I have two cats (Smokey & Bandit). I'm engaged to a really cool girl named Destiny, and we're planning to get married sometime in June of 2024! My hobbies include working on small software engineering projects, maintaining a powerful Minecraft server, smoking cigars while smoking meat, Husker football (unfortunately), wrenching on cars, and personal fitness.

I started my professional journey at Doane University in Crete with a small internship writing SQL queries, and then graduated in 2020 with a B.S. degree in Computer Science. My first job out of college was at a company called Sandhills Global, and I worked there for a year and a half modernizing old Visual Basic webforms services into C# .NET MVC projects. I left Sandhills halfway through 2022 and started at my first software contracting job where I worked in a variety of software stacks and cloud platforms. I ended up leaving that company because I was overworked, and now I'm at Nelnet doing contracting work for the state of Wisconsin rewriting their unemployment insurance claims system. I'm primarily a full stack .NET engineer with advanced experience in C# and VB.NET, React, Angular, multiple database management systems, along with Azure, Google, and Oracle cloud platforms. I'm hopeful that once I'm done with my master's I'll be a Senior Engineer or Solution Architect, eventually I'd like to be the person in charge of outlining development practices, patterns, and infrastructure decisions.

Reading through our coursework, I'm most excited to learn a bit more about cryptography. I know quite a bit about cryptography already, but it's a subject that interests me. I'm also interested in intrusion detection; I have no experience in that area, so I think I'm guaranteed to learn something new there!