Karolina Balszan

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TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, Java, Python, SQL
Frameworks & Libraries: React, Node.js, Express.js, Next.js, Spring Boot
Databases: MongoDB
Developer Tools: Git, VS Code, IntelliJ
Other: HTML, CSS, Tailwind CSS, Zustand, Webpack, RabbitMQ, UML

EDUCATION

University of West London   London, UK
*BSc Computer Science (**First Class Honours**)*   *Sept. 2020 – May 2024*

COURSEWORK

Final Year Project: Parallel Processing in Microservices Architecture | *Java, Spring Boot, RabbitMQ*
- Grade: 83%
- Implemented **LMAX Disruptor** in a microservices architecture, achieving up to 77.49% reduction in processing time
- Designed and developed a scalable order processing system using **Java**, **Spring Boot**, and **RabbitMQ**

Group Research Project: E-commerce Website Development | *Shopify*
- Grade: 77%
- Led a team in developing a functional gym clothing and supplement e-commerce website using Shopify
- Managed project timeline and coordinated team efforts as **project leader**

Applied Software Engineering | *UML, OCL, Java*
- Grade: 80%
- Developed comprehensive **UML** diagrams including use case, class, and sequence diagrams for a knowledge management system
- Applied object-oriented design principles to create modular and extensible software using **Java** and **OCL**

PROJECTS

FoodShop | *JavaScript, React.js, Next.js, Tailwind CSS, Zustand, Stripe API*   *www.foodshop.balszan.dev*
- Built a full-stack e-commerce application using **Next.js**, combining frontend and backend functionality
- Implemented state management with **Zustand** and integrated **Stripe API** for secure payments
- Created a dynamic cart system and responsive design using **Tailwind CSS**
- Applied best practices including server-side rendering and client-side state management

BirdCheck | *HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React.js*   *www.birdcheck.netlify.app*
- Developed a **React**-based application fetching and displaying recent UK bird sightings using **eBird** and **Flickr APIs**
- Implemented interactive **Leaflet** maps to visualize bird spotting locations
- Utilized **localStorage** for persistent storage of user data
- Ensured W3C validation standards and incorporated accessibility best practices

Portfolio Website | *HTML, CSS, JavaScript*   *www.balszan.dev*
- Designed and developed a personal portfolio website to showcase projects and skills
- Implemented responsive design adapting to various screen sizes
- Enhanced user experience with aesthetic transitions and smooth navigation

EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed Childcare Provider   *Sept. 2021 – Present*
London, UK
- Successfully managed a self-employed childcare business alongside my computer science degree, showcasing initiative, time management, and client relations skills