

Caolan McKendry

COMMUNITY MANAGER

Executive Summary

I'm a freelance Community Manager with a life-long passion for computing and technology. With hospitality experience and over 5 years working freelance, I value human connection and collaboration above all else. Building communities can change lives, and I am determined to join a field that allows me to do it on a daily basis.

Core Strengths

I'm curious and driven with the ability to work well under pressure. A very fast learner, I'm a natural at picking up new skills very quickly when given some initial training, and I'm skilled in delegating tasks and managing/working in teams.

Get in touch!

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Professional History

Executive Director

NI Game Dev Network | Oct 2020 - Present

The NI Game Dev Network is the community for everyone interested in making games in Northern Ireland, from accomplished studio heads to students just getting started in the industry. We facilitate regular events and networking opportunities for individuals within the community and aim to help businesses here in NI collaborate for collective benefit.

Bar Staff

O'Connors Bar | Nov 2019 - Sep 2020

My duties in O'Connors mainly comprised of taking orders and payments, making drinks, serving customers, and ensuring front of house and the bar area remained clean at all times. I was also responsible for taking bookings, track and trace logs, and temperature/hygiene checks after the national lockdown due to COVID-19.

Dish Washer, Counter Assistant

Simply @ The Jug | June 2019 - Oct 2019

My responsibilities as a dishwasher included cleaning/drying dishes, clearing tables, and ensuring the kitchen area, cafe area, and toilets remained clean at all times. In August 2019, I was promoted to counter assistant, where my responsibilities included making beverages, serving customers, bringing food to tables, preparing food (e.g. sandwiches, paninis, etc), taking orders, and handling payment using our ePOS.

Work Experience Student

Kainos Group PLC | 4 March - 8 March 2019

Completing work experience helped me gain some of the technical skills that software developers use daily. We worked through some different challenges and presented our final product to our mentor and others, gaining experience in project management and improving our presenting skills.

Freelance Website Designer

CMK Digital | Dec 2015 - Present

Created websites for multiple local SME's as well as providing IT support, online advertising and graphic design. As my first foray into business management, this was instrumental in helping me learn how to track and maintain daily business expenses and transactions, communicate regularly with clients and suppliers, organise meetings, track projects and meet deadlines.

As a result of doing freelance work, I have developed a keen eye for pixel-perfect design, a skill I use constantly in Website/Graphic design and Video Editing. I also developed an understanding of digital marketing basics, furthered by my participation in the WixEd (website design and search engine optimisation) and Google Digital Garage (digital advertising) training programs.

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Professional Skills

Marketing
Graphic Design
Video Editing
Live Production
Event Management
Photo Editing
Copywriting
Social Media Strategy
Website Design

Highlights and Awards

Winner - 'Community Choice Award'
NI Game Awards 2020

Finalist - 'Inspirational Educator'
Causeway Coast and Glens People of the Year
Awards 2020

1st Place Winner - Best App Concept
Kainos Codecamp

Competed/Mentored in the First Lego League NI
Regionals for 5 years in a row with Dalriada
Robotics, winning 6 awards

Senior Colours Award for STEM
Awarded for dedication to STEM and Robotics
within Dalriada School

3rd Place Winner - Future17 Hackathon
AR Tourism App concept

Website Design Intern

WebToday Sydney | June 2017 to Sep 2017

Assisted WebToday with their website design projects during Summer 2016, working remotely with daily briefings and debriefings when we could meet as per our timezones. Helped the team complete ongoing projects and work on existing designs where required, and also took on brand new clients and created their initial designs which went on to become their final production design.

Other Experience

NI Raspberry Jam @ NI Developer Conference

Lead Organiser & Producer | Aug 2020 - Oct 2020

In August 2020 I was approached by the organising team of the NI Developer Conference to discuss their plans to bring NIDC online due to COVID-19 and to expand by hosting workshops, talks and other relevant content for kids (a demographic they had no experience running events for). I served as the lead organiser for the NI Raspberry Jam content, which took the form of a half-day segment on the Saturday (1/6 of the conference's 3-day schedule).

Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam

Trustee | June 2016 - Present

Volunteer | June 2016 - Present

For almost 5 years, I've volunteered as a Youth Mentor at the Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam, a programme of free, monthly, family-friendly events based in Belfast that have the purpose of providing access for young people and adults to activities and workshops in Computer Science, Electronic Engineering and related subjects. As a youth mentor, I've helped deliver 200+ hours of workshops to over 2100 young people. I've also worked with the NI Raspberry Jam team to deliver sessions as part of Mozilla Festival (London, Oct 2019) and at CoderDojo Coolest Projects International (Dublin, May 2019).

Whitepot Studios

Discord Community Admin | Jan 2018 - Present

Whitepot Studios is a games development and creative media studio based in Northern Ireland making PC, Android, and iOS games using Unity. As a very active member of the Whitepot Studios discord community, I was asked in January of 2018 to join the team as a Community Admin to help run the rapidly expanding discord server.

At the time of writing, the server hosts an active community with a total of 535 members. My roles include ensuring that spam & hate speech is removed, welcoming new members, recruitment, managing bots, and scheduling events and meetings. Working with Whitepot studios has given me great experience in community management and advertising on social media.

Recently, I have helped Whitepot Studios outside of the discord community, spearheading the creation of an online merchandise store, as well as assisting with the creation of their new website and helping test new games.

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COMP SCI STUDENT

Referees

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Other Experience

Dalriada School Lighting Team

CMK Digital | Dec 2015 - Present

As a member of the school Lighting Team, I was responsible for operating lighting for school productions, such as the annual school play, the annual Evening of Music, and other events such as the Spring and Christmas Concerts. I have gained experience working with both manual and deck-controlled stage lights, spotlights, and uplights, as well as software control for lights, and filming/streaming productions. Working with the Lighting team on school productions also gave me the opportunity to gain some knowledge of the sound equipment used in productions when filling in for others, as well as knowledge on the broadcast and recording setups through assisting with repairs during shows.

Kainos CodeCamp

July 2017

In 2018, I attended Kainos CodeCamp, which consisted of workshops, talks, and an app design challenge where participants had to conceptualise, design and build a mobile app. I won first place for my app which allowed those with food intolerances to quickly tell if a product was suitable for their diet by scanning its barcode. Judges' feedback praised the app's commercial viability and intuitive design.

National Citizen Service (NCS)

Summer 2017

In 2017, I completed the NCS National Citizen Service program. I was awarded a 100 Hour Millennium Volunteers Certificate for our team's social action project, where I lead the design of t-shirts and assisted with marketing for our Colour Run which raised over £400 for MS Society.

Academic History

Queen's University Belfast

BSc Computer Science with Professional Experience | Sep 2020 - Sep 2024

Dalriada School Ballymoney

I completed my A-Levels in June 2020 with generated results due to the COVID-19 exam cancellations with the following results:

Computer Science: A

Digital Technology: A

Design & Technology: D