**Connel Hooley**[**me@connelhooley.uk**](mailto:me@connelhooley.uk)[**connelhooley.uk**](http://connelhooley.uk/)[**linkedin.com/in/connelhooley**](http://www.linkedin.com/in/connelhooley)

**Background**

I am a 31-year-old software engineer based in Norwich. My preferred language is **C#** although I also have experience with modern web technologies such as **Node.js** and **React**.

I take an interest in **F#** and functional programming, I have written an in-depth article introducing C# developers to F# that you can find [here](http://connelhooley.uk/blog/2017/04/10/f-sharp-guide). I also have experience with the Actor model via **Akka.NET**. I wrote an Akka.NET unit test framework that you can find [here](https://github.com/connelhooley/AkkaTestingHelpers). I have written an article discussing the different ways a React application can be styled that you can find [here](https://connelhooley.uk/blog/2020/05/14/react-styling).

My hobbies include playing football and table tennis. I am a Newcastle United fan.

**Experience**

**Lead Developer (Jan 2022 – Present)***Aviva - Norwich*I will begin a new role as a formally recognised Lead Developer upon returning from paternity leave in January, building on experience gained in my previous Aviva role.

**Applications Developer (Apr 2018 – Dec 2021)***Aviva - Norwich*During this role I have predominantly worked on an existing greenfield project, aimed at minimising duplication amongst various code bases within the business. The project used **Akka.NET** for its backend and **SignalR** to update a React SPA. My existing knowledge of Akka.NET has been very valuable to the team.

Upon my arrival in the team, I quickly provided value by improving the stability of the unit tests for the solution which often required re-runs to pass.

Whilst working on the project I became a tech lead. I have been a **lead developer** on multiple projects. This involved raising stories, assisting with backlog prioritisation, gathering requirements, liaising with the business, assisting other developers in team, gate-keeping pull requests, managing dev ops pipelines, doing production deployments and running scrum ceremonies when the scrum master was unavailable.

During my time at Aviva I also wrote a simple service virtualisation tool that multiple teams used for over a year as an alternative to LISA/Dev Test before the business migrated to [WireMock](http://wiremock.org). This was written in **TypeScript** and **Node.JS**.

**Applications Developer (Feb 2015 – Mar 2018)***Modality Systems - Norwich*During this role I worked on various solutions built around **Skype For Business**. I helped the dev team build out release pipelines in **VSTS** and embrace TDD & testing automation. This involved a large mentality shift with regards to how QA was approached. We tried to involve our testers as early as possible with each user story. I particularly enjoyed embracing TDD.

I led the design of one project that involved the co-ordinating of over 50 machines. It used **Akka.NET** and **SignalR** to achieve the distributed computing required. The machines could be configured using an **Angular2 TypeScript** web application. During this project we hired a junior dev whom I mentored which was an extremely rewarding experience. I was also stand-in scrum master for this project. I was involved in various Microsoft TAP programs during my time in this role which was very interesting.

**Applications Developer (Jan 2014 – Jan 2015)***C A Design Services - Great Yarmouth*This was my first development role. I initially performed small support tasks and developed in-house **.NET** solutions. I then moved on to developing enhancements and bug fixes to existing products. These systems were usually 3-tier **ASP.NET Web Form** Applications with **T-SQL** databases. I eventually began working on new projects and was the first person at the company to make a website using an ORM back-end (**Entity Framework**) and the MVC design pattern (**ASP.NET MVC**). My first project was for the large retail firm Sainsbury’s. I also began writing unit tests for the first time during my time at C A Design Services.

**Qualifications**

**BSc Hons in Software Engineering at the University of East Anglia (2010-2013)**2:2

**BTEC National Diploma in ICT at Great Yarmouth College (2008-2010)**  
Triple Distinction

**GCSEs at Cliff Park High School (2002-2006)**Grade A English Language  
Grade B English Literature  
Grade C Science × 2, Maths, Statistics, ICT, Electronics, Art, PE, RE