

Ian Nelson

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- Technical Lead, Architect, and Developer, with over 25 years' experience across the full product lifecycle.
- Specialist in distributed architectures and back-end; application integration via messaging and REST APIs.
- Excels in achieving high scalability and performance from both greenfield and brownfield architectures.
- Confirmed agilist and exponent of test-driven development, continuous integration and deployment.
- Strong database design experience, both NoSQL (DynamoDB, Cosmos DB) and relational (SQL Server, Oracle).
- Effective client-facing skills; has led analysis, architecture and development of successful high-profile projects.

Key Current Technical Skills

- Azure products including Function Apps, Cosmos DB, Event Hubs, Notification Hub, Service Bus, SQL Database
- AWS products including Lambda, Step Functions, Simple Queue Service, DynamoDB, S3, API Gateway
- C# 1.0 – 13.0, .NET Framework 1.0 – .NET 9.0
- Java 8-21, Spring Boot
- NoSQL – DynamoDB, Cosmos DB, MongoDB
- Messaging, Workflows, Automation, API Design
- Agile (SCRUM, Kanban, Planning Poker, XP, Pairing)
- Automated testing (TDD, BDD, Mocking)
- CI/CD (GitHub, Azure DevOps, Jenkins, TeamCity)
- OOP, Design Patterns, SOLID Principles

Contract Portfolio

Focussed on the architecture and implementation of modern distributed cloud-native solutions. Clients include:

Financial Conduct Authority *(20 months, contract renewed)*

Technical Lead for Gateway Forms, a project to replace over 200 legacy forms (PDF, Word, Salesforce Connect) with modern web forms following GOV.UK standards. Technologies included Java 8-21, Lambda, Step Functions, DynamoDB, SQS, DataDog, and LaunchDarkly, and used Decision Model and Notation (DMN) for business rules.

Helped to nurture a nascent in-house delivery capability at the FCA while working with (and transitioning between) external suppliers. Conducted interviews to grow the team. Participated in rotas for production support and acted as Technical Release Manager for deployments. Pushed for improved developer experience and promoted pairing.

NHS Digital for Kainos *(Five years, contract renewed)*

Technical Lead for the NHS App, an England-wide way to access a range of NHS services via smartphone, tablet and desktop web browser. Technologies included .NET Core, C#, Kotlin, Kubernetes, Terraform, FHIR HL7 R4, Splunk, and Azure products including Function Apps, Event Hubs, Notification Hubs, Storage Queues and Cosmos DB.

Led a multi-disciplinary team of personnel from multiple organisations through over 120 sprints, from alpha through to the run and maintain phase of this national system with over 30 million users. Guided the team through pairing, mobbing, reviews and refinement sessions to ensure that deliverables were high quality, met functional and non-functional requirements, and integrated with those created by the wider project team and NHS Digital.

Architected and led the development of the App's notification and messaging capability. This facilitates the secure and sub second delivery of health-related communications from NHS organisations to the patient's mobile device, replacing more costly communication methods such as SMS or mail. The system has a proven sustained throughput of over 1000 messages per second, with over 1.3 million messages being sent in December 2022 alone.

Developed integration points and liaised with third parties to surface a range of patient-facing services through the App, via web-based and API integration techniques. An example of this is COVID Pass, a system that allowed citizens to access hospitality venues and international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Encouraged a DevOps culture including collective code ownership, infrastructure as code, and shared responsibility for preparing fortnightly deployments to production. Facilitated and promoted Knowledge Sharing sessions to spread technical know-how. Contributed to "Show and Tell" sessions to promote the work of the App team.

Access Intelligence *(32 months, contract renewed)*

Backend architectural lead tasked with the rapid development of a greenfield Azure-hosted system required as the result of an acquisition. Technologies included Azure Cognitive Search, SQL Database, Service Bus, Rabbit MQ, WebJobs and a REST API. Defined CI/CD methodologies, including Git push deployment to Azure App Service.

Piksel (26 months, contract renewed)

Supplied .NET development capability to a white-label Video-On-Demand solution. Technologies included Microsoft Azure, C#, ASP.NET MVC4/5, JavaScript, jQuery, Entity Framework, WCF, and SQL Server 2008/2012.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (Ten months, contract renewed)

Designed and implemented a distributed suite of systems for a national programme to calculate health gains after surgical treatment. The solution comprises multiple Windows services, RESTful OpenRasta APIs, an MVC3 portal, and numerous SQL Server 2008 Integration Services packages.

Atos Origin (11 weeks, fixed timescales)

Joined a small agile team to develop systems needed due to M&A activity in the parcel industry. Took ownership of data migration and registration and contributed across the suite of systems. The main deliverable is a WPF application, with supporting systems of WCF endpoints, Windows services, and an ASP.NET MVC3 admin site.

Marshalls (eight months, contract renewed)

Architected and implemented a greenfield message-based system to capture and rank sales leads from multiple systems. Technologies included MSMQ, WCF, C# 3.0, WF, SQL Server, NHibernate and Castle Windsor.

Ventura (six months, contract renewed)

Worked to aggressive timescales to design and develop systems required by a new central government call centre. Technologies used included C# 3.0, .NET Framework 3.5, WCF, NHibernate, Monorail and Oracle 10g.

NHS Choices for Capita (eight months, contract renewed)

Developed functionality for the NHS.UK website allowing the display and editing of pages for services including dentists, opticians, and pharmacies. Technologies included C#, SQL Server and SharePoint.

Earlier Employment History

Prior to entering the freelance market in 2008, notable permanent employment positions held included:

Marshalls

Technical Architect and Lead Developer of a mission critical ASP.NET / C# / SQL Server solution used by call centre staff at eight locations and via the internet by 350+ builders' merchants for the creation of quotations.

ioko365

Lead developer of IMS Health "Early-Insight" web application that presents daily sales data to subscribing pharmaceutical companies. Created using ASP and VB6 COM objects with an Oracle 8i database.

Career Chronology

Contract Roles

03/2025 – 06/2025	NHS England	04/2010 – 12/2010	NHS Choices (for Capita)
05/2023 – 03/2025	Financial Conduct Authority	08/2009 – 03/2010	Marshalls
03/2018 – 03/2023	NHS Digital (for Kainos)	10/2008 – 07/2009	National Institute of Health Research
08/2017 – 03/2018	Drax Power Limited	03/2008 – 09/2008	Ventura
12/2014 – 08/2017	Access Intelligence	Permanent Roles	
09/2014 – 11/2014	Capita Customer Management		
07/2012 – 09/2014	Piksel Inc	10/2003 – 03/2008	Marshalls
05/2012 – 06/2012	Jet2.com	03/2003 – 09/2003	Broker Network
05/2011 – 03/2012	HSC Information Centre	12/2000 – 01/2003	ioko365 (formerly Infocom)
03/2011 – 05/2011	Atos Origin	09/1997 – 12/2000	Keane (formerly Icom Solutions)
01/2011 – 03/2011	Edexcel		

Education

BSc (Hons) Mathematics, University of Nottingham

Topics studied included Structured Programming, Coding & Cryptography, Game Theory, Algorithmic Graph Theory, Applied Probability, Combinatorial Counting and Statistical Inference.