

**Sura Karnawi's Portfolio**  
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## **Art & engineering - Entrepreneurship**

In my recent role as a studio lead and product manager at Orangutan Matter Studio, I managed the end-to-end lifecycle of various software projects, including award-nominated titles like Unleaving. Where I successfully translated product visions into actionable development roadmaps, navigating complex challenges while maintaining stakeholder alignment throughout the process. My leadership has contributed to notable achievements, including a nomination for the Canada Indie Cup Rising Star award and securing a partnership with Microsoft Xbox, reflecting my ability to guide products from concept to market success.

My unique skill set bridges the gap between art and technology, allowing me to create visually stunning interactive experiences. I have a passion for blending traditional art forms with modern techniques, demonstrated through my work on Unleaving. In this project, I wore many hats alongside my partner, gaining in-depth knowledge of all phases of design and development. I focused on aspects such as color theory and composition, integrating these principles into our digital work. My technical expertise extends to understanding how resolution and other art decisions impact memory, ensuring optimal performance in the final product. I took ownership of product decisions, shaping project direction throughout the product development lifecycle, from conceptualization to release. My expertise in rapid prototyping, A/B testing, and solution architecture aligns with agile development roadmaps.



## **Full-Stack Development with Emphasis on Front-End**

At the BBC, I was part of a core team focused on designing and developing the authentication and authorization systems that enabled personalized experiences on platforms like BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds. Collaborating closely with product owners and clients for user research and testing, I made crucial engineering decisions while emphasizing a user-centric approach to personalization across BBC services. I played a vital role in every stage of the launch, culminating in pressing the green button on my final day before relocating to Canada. This experience

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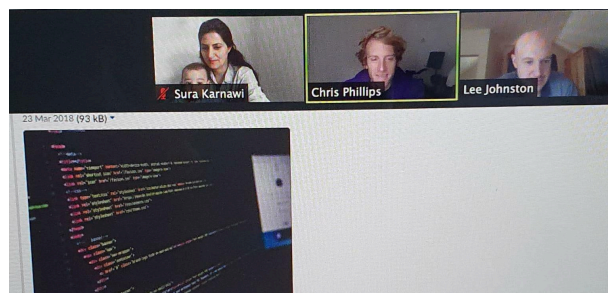
deepened my understanding of crafting engaging and tailored user experiences in a large-scale media environment.

I have full-stack expertise with a specialization in front-end development. My design approach is rooted in accessibility, utilizing semantic HTML tags, relevant JavaScript libraries like React, and the latest CSS techniques, including Flexbox and Grid, to create responsive layouts that are both functional and visually appealing. Additionally, my experience allowed me to write code in Test-Driven Development mode, work with Java, Implement A/B testing such as using Saas (Optimizely) and engage in DevOps tasks, including scaling resources and monitoring performance, as I often wore multiple hats in this dynamic environment.



## Advocacy for Women in STEM

I have delivered numerous speeches and workshops to highlight the importance of representation for women in STEM. As a speaker at events organized by the BBC Women in STEM Network in London, Pixelles in Montreal, and the Hand Eye Society in Toronto, I aimed to inspire and empower women in the field while promoting inclusivity and diversity in technology.



## User centric design, Accessibility & Coding Standards in Inclusive Design

At Manchester Transport, I excelled in implementing accessibility and coding standards to create inclusive designs. We placed a strong emphasis on highlighting accessibility in our projects, which included both in-house testing and public outreach to ensure our solutions effectively served diverse user needs. The constant demand to build for the public often came with tight

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deadlines; however, I consistently delivered high-quality code while working independently and taking the initiative.

I utilized various technologies, including ARIA labels in HTML, headless CMS, Node.js, React, MongoDB, and Azure services, while managing PaaS applications to streamline development and enhance user experience. Notably, the website tfgm.com was recognized and awarded for its accessibility and high performance.

**CMS Development Champion: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities**

At Soft Gravity, I was brought on board to make their CMS product, Unlroole, functional, a frontend developer role that had been opened for the fifth time due to previous challenges. This position proved to be one of the most demanding I have ever undertaken, requiring precision, dedication, and a commitment to quality.

Upon my arrival, the CMS was riddled with bugs, but I recognized its potential. I began coding with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and various libraries, often needing to implement workarounds. As the sole full-time developer dedicated to the product while others contributed only part-time, I felt a strong sense of responsibility for its success. Through persistent effort and collaboration with the team, I gradually improved the CMS, ultimately enabling it to host one of the largest websites for the Pan American Games in Toronto in 2015.

After accomplishing this mission, I moved on to my next adventure, having successfully transformed the CMS into a viable product that could be marketed to clients.

**AI Enthusiasm**

I am passionate about the potential of AI and actively explore its applications through various side projects. Currently, I utilize GitHub Copilot to enhance my coding efficiency and creativity, allowing me to experiment with innovative solutions and stay at the forefront of technology trends.