Mark McFadden

Junior Software Developer

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Personal Statement

My passion for technology was sparked during my time as a professional poker player, where I leveraged tech tools to analyze my game and develop optimal strategies. This deep dive into the analytical power of technology ignited my curiosity to explore the broader tech landscape.

The dynamic, collaborative nature of the tech industry excites me, and I thrive in team environments that combine diverse perspectives to solve complex problems. After excelling in the competitive world of poker, I'm eager to apply my focus, adaptability, and analytical mindset to contribute to innovative tech projects.

In a tech role, I see not just a career but a chance to continually grow, collaborate, and use a combination of my problem-solving skills and the power of technology to make a real impact.

Technical Skills
Languages: Javascript & Typescript using Node.js and browsers as environment.
Testing: TDD (Test Driven Development), Jest, Supertest.
Back-end: SQL, PSQL, Express, seeding, migrations.
Front-end: HTML, CSS, React, Next.js and other accessibility tools.
Hosting: Supabase, Render, Netlify.
Other: Paired programming, technical communication, SDL, Agile and SCRUM methodologies.

Projects

- **Backend Project** – [NC News API](#)
- Built a RESTful API using Node.js, Express, and PostgreSQL, enabling users to interact with news articles, comments, and users.
- Applied TDD with Jest and Supertest to ensure robust and maintainable code.
- Designed and optimized SQL queries for efficient database interactions.
- Deployed via Render for live access.

- **Frontend Project** – https://mmnews.netlify.app/
- A mobile-first full-stack news application built with React, React Router and Styled Components to allow users to read, comment on, vote for and submit news articles.
- Integrated with the NC News API for user, article and comment data.
- Deployed on Netlify for live access, optimised for mobile devices.

Experience

Junior Software Developer | Northcoders Software Development Bootcamp | Dec 2024 – Mar 2025

- Collaborated in Agile teams to develop full-stack applications, implementing features using React, Node.js, and PostgreSQL
- Collaborated through pair programming, alternating roles to enhance code quality, improve debugging efficiency, and strengthen communication of technical ideas.
- Applied TDD principles to write robust, modular code with Jest and Supertest, ensuring high test coverage and reliable software.

Professional Poker Player | Self-Employed | Feb 2017 – Dec 2024

- Analyzed large datasets using PioSolver to refine strategies and implement Game Theory Optimal play.
- Developed critical thinking, decision-making under pressure, and a goal-oriented mindset.
- Demonstrated self-discipline and adaptability, consistently performing in a competitive, evolving environment.

Poker Room Supervisor | Metropolitan Gaming | Apr 2021 – May 2022

- Managed poker room operations, optimizing revenue while ensuring exceptional customer service.
- Recruited and trained staff, emphasizing adherence to company procedures and professionalism.
- Resolved conflicts effectively, maintaining a positive atmosphere under high-pressure conditions.

Poker Dealer & Cashier | Grosvenor Casinos | May 2011 – Feb 2017

- Conducted high-stakes poker games efficiently, ensuring engaging customer experience.
- Oversaw cash transactions, maintaining accuracy and trust in fast-paced scenarios.

Work Experience 2005-2011 available upon request.

Education

BSc Sport and Exercise Science (2:1) - *University of Chichester, 2006–2009*

Hobbies & Interests

- Passionate about continuous self-development, currently learning Spanish at B1 level.
- Enthusiastic about analytical thinking and problem-solving, with a deep interest in applying these skills from poker to software challenges.
- Avid traveler with extensive experience in SE Asia, Africa and Latin America.