ALEX NICHOLAS

FRONT-END DEVELOPER

ME@ALEXNICHOLAS.DEV
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/AJDN
GITHUB.COM/ALICNIK
KENT, TN1

SKILLS

- HTML/CSS/Sass
- JavaScript + Typescript
- React + Remix/Next.js
- Node.js + Express
- Java + Springboot
- Python + Django
- MongoDB + PostgreSQL
- Git/GitHub + Docker
- Jest + Cypress
- Webpack
- Prisma
- Tailwind CSS

STUDYING

- AWS
- Redux
- React Native
- Solid
- Strapi

OTHER

- VS Code
- Figma
- Accessibility/WCAG
- Google Analytics
- Google Tag Manager
- InDesign + Photoshop
- Written communication

ABOUT ME

I excel at solving computing problems and approach them with tenacity, determination and resourcefulness. My primary motivators are fixing things that don't work and helping others, which has fostered a love of fixing bugs, and a drive to support the growth of more junior developers through coaching, mentoring and active support. I am an advocate of automation and actively seek out and resolve inefficiencies to minimise friction and waste. I believe in coding with the maintainer in mind, writing simple, logical code with types via JSDocs/TypeScript, comments explaining 'why' as opposed to 'what', and in-depth, easy-to-follow documentation.

EXPERIENCE

UI Developer

Immediate Media, February 2022 – present

- Member of an AGILE team responsible for delivering an updated Identity flow focused on security, performance, and UX.
- Built React components following atomic design principles and WCAG accessibility guidelines and integrating them with a Next.js frontend, which interacts with a REST API via an Express.js BFF layer.
- Deployed to high-traffic sites including BBC Good Food and Radio Times with zero downtime or user disruption..
- Promoted after 11 months to mid role, taking increased ownership of delivery of elements including GDPR-compliant consent management strategies to improve UX and business goals.
- Assumed senior role within the team 6 months after promotion to cover a secondment. Managed and coached two more junior developers during this time and delivered an updated forgotten password journey to unblock adoption of OWASP-compliant password policy.

EDUCATION

Software Engineering Immersive
General Assembly, London, 2020

LLM in International Business Law
UCL, London, 2009–11

Bar Vocational Course
BPP Law School, London, 2008–09

LLB Law, 2:1
University of Manchester, 2005–08

AWARDS

Distinction for LLM dissertation, *On A Move Towards A Political Theory of Statehood*

Called to the Bar (Lincoln's Inn)

INTERESTS

Gastronomy:
I am interested in using innovative, flavour-boosting ingredients and honing my technique to create (occasionally) delightful dishes for themed dinner parties.

Playing piano:
Obsessed with Chopin and working my way through his nocturnes with occasional detours via Debussy and contemporary film music.

Playing squash:
Like boxing with a racquet, I enjoy partnering with friends and raising my heart rate.

Travel:
Fascinated by other cultures, I love anything new and the feeling of being lost.

LANGUAGES

English (mother tongue)
French + Spanish (intermediate)
Japanese (novice)

- Furthered passion for solving business inefficiencies. Built a temporary email service (shuttle.email) to solve test flake, internal tools to simplify day-to-day tasks, and spearheaded TypeScript adoption to improve DX.

Instructor Assistant

General Assembly, April 2021 – January 2022

Duties included:

- Ensuring the smooth running of the Software Engineering Immersive and steady progression of students through learning full-stack development using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Node.js, Express, Python, and Django, with deployment to Heroku and Netlify.
- Teaching coding concepts, both in groups and one-to-one.
- Engaging in regular code reviews.
- Simultaneously debugging issues across different environments for multiple students and resolving Git issues.
- Researching and writing textbook entries and documentation.

Beyond the contracted scope of my role, I also:

- Built a SlackBot to automate repetitive tasks.
- Created a CLI to automate installation of software required for the course.
- Delivered out-of-hours training to help struggling students.

Software Engineer

Tocalabs, September 2020 – April 2021

- Rapidly integrated into the UI team of a fast-paced start-up.
- Took ownership within the first month of a new no-code WYSIWYG React-application-building platform, Toca Apps.
- Worked closely with third-party designer to build the company website using Toca Apps, requiring flexibility to respond to bugs encountered by the designer in the platform's first full road test.
- AGILE workflow using Azure Dev Ops to track bugs and features, with daily scrums and weekly/bi-weekly sprint meetings.
- Worked on a range of tasks including performance analysis and improvement, bundle size reduction, functional blocks (Toca Apps component groupings with variable inputs), bug fixes, and creating documentation from scratch for both Toca Apps and new starters.

Software Engineering Immersive

General Assembly, May 2020 – August 2020

Full-time, 13-week coding boot camp covering a range of in-demand languages, frameworks and libraries via lectures and labs with solo and group projects. Learning was characterised by daily stand-ups, an iterative and incremental style of teaching, pair programming, and test-driven development.

Additional career history available on LinkedIn