

Finian Cardiff

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SKILLS & INTERESTS

Languages	Python, Java, SQL (PostgreSQL), JavaScript, TypeScript, Lua, HTML, CSS, XML
AI / GenAI:	Claude API, OpenAI API, MCP, Model Fine-Tuning, Generative Content Pipelines
Technologies:	React.js, Express.js, Next.js, Node.js, GraphQL, Tailwind CSS, Flask, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, Jest, Playwright
Developer Tools:	Google Cloud Platform, AWS, Amazon SQS, Terraform, Docker, Kubernetes, ArgoCD, Git, GitLab, Microsoft Azure, JIRA

WORK EXPERIENCE

State Farm	Mar 2024 - Present
Senior Software Engineer	Remote

- Reduced average response times by 70% for 10,000+ daily active users by optimizing backend API architecture across 12 critical routes using Nest.js, PostgreSQL, and TypeScript to implement concurrent processing.
- Led migration from Basic Auth to Microsoft Azure EntraID for 7 APIs and 25 downstreams
- Improved engineering team velocity by 43% by mentoring 4 junior developers through structured code reviews and pair programming sessions, significantly shortening code review cycle time.
- Decreased deployment time by 71% by restructuring CI/CD pipelines using GitLab Actions to automate deployments on AWS infrastructure.
- Modernized legacy infrastructure by leading the migration of mainframe Java code from IBM DB2 to PostgreSQL, while maintaining high availability through custom Dynatrace and Splunk dashboards.

Game Development	Jan 2021 - Present
Technical Lead & Architect	Remote

- Scaled player base to 5.7M+ total users (1M+ new monthly) by developing game concepts from scratch using Lua and React.
- Increased in-game revenue by 463% and user retention by 37% by implementing a custom recommendation algorithm.
- Built a generative-AI content pipeline using a custom model trained on proprietary game data and hand-authored skill files, generating production 3D assets, UI sets, and full game concepts from simple commands.
- Boosted Daily Active Users (DAUs) by 55% and positive reviews by 72% by architecting a data pipeline that ingests 250,000+ daily player data points to inform design decisions.
- Engineered a scalable REST API that handles 200K+ requests daily and supports thousands of concurrent players using cloud servers and load balancers.
- Led a team of several engineers to accelerate development concepts, managing feature additions, bug fixes, and technical code reviews.

Consulting	Jan 2021 - Mar 2024
Software Engineer (Contract)	Remote

- Generated \$26M+ in revenue for a high-traffic Shopify store (3M+ monthly visitors) by engineering custom product features using Next.js and Sass.
- Architected a Node.js/MongoDB backend for an energy trading startup, managing 1M+ records per hour with 99.99% uptime and 52% faster database query performance.
- Led a full-scale migration of legacy services to AWS (EC2, S3, RDS, Lambda), reducing infrastructure overhead by 40% and reaching 99.995% service availability.

Beachgoer	Jan 2017 - Jan 2021
Founder & Founding Engineer	Remote

- Scaled annual revenue from \$0 to \$750K and sold 54,000 units in a single year by architecting a proprietary eCommerce platform using Node.js and MongoDB to automate purchasing decisions
- Increased profit margins by 25% by developing a real-time repricing algorithm in Node.js that processed 31,000 products every 5 seconds, responding 55% faster than market competitors
- Supported 400% year-over-year growth by engineering a high-throughput data ingestion system using Amazon SQS and microservices architecture capable of handling 11M+ records per hour