

Andy Pook

A keen technologist, a skilled self-starter with 20+ years of experience in a variety of environments and roles. An avid learner, always keen to collaborate and share lessons learnt. Able to combine strategic thinking with tactical pragmatism.



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Latest version: <https://a6k.dev/cv.pdf>

Skills

dotnet, C#, MVC, WebAPI javascript, Powershell
Dapper, Glimpse, Metrics.net, lucene.net, akka.net, Swashbuckle (Swagger), Castle Windsor, ZeroMQ, json.net, jquery, knockout, angular SQL Server, ElasticSearch, Redis, MongoDB, Azure, ServiceFabric, docker, k8s
Windows, Linux

Reputation for "fixing stuff"

"Andy is very talented and a great addition to any team. He has the uncanny ability to see the solution even with many hurdles in the way. His code is fluent and flexible leaving him the ability to pivot if needed. I hope our paths will cross in the future so I can have the pleasure of working with him again."

MB @ Connections Education

"Andy worked on the PIM workstream of my Digital Transformation Programme. Within days of Andy joining the team it was clear that he is very technically competent and highly experienced. It wasn't long before the other developers in the PIM team started going to Andy for help/advice/guidance so that he became seen as the senior developer on the team. I would recommend Andy to any team that needs a very capable senior developer with his skill set."

KM @ Game

Personal

Swimming, mountain biking, stand-up paddle boarding.

Insync Group – Contract Developer

Jan 2022 - Apr 2022

Accounting and Tax services for the self-employed.

Adding features for identifying fees for Channel Partners.
System is self hosted with dotnet for UI, APIs and message bus.

Currently built with .Net Framework. I built packages in netstandard and net6 to replace/Modernise parts of the platform while keeping a level of source code compatibility to make migration possible.

NFER – Contract Developer

Jun 2021 - Oct 2021

Building an E-Assessment system.

Management of Pupil & Establishment details and integration of the web based test taking system where Pupils are assessed.

Help move project towards a more "micro-services" based approach.

Built the module that takes the Test details, the responses of the Pupil, together with an inhouse set of rules to assess the responses to mark and assign scores.

Integrated with systems both up and downstream.
Initial work on improving devops pipelines and deployments to k8s.

Medivet – Contract Developer

Feb 2019 - Jun 2021

Develop a new web based application to support the running and management of veterinary practices. The current system has reached its scaling limit and a new system is required to support business growth.

Written from the ground up with a micro-services style in C# with dotnet 5.0 in the backend to support Angular with ngRx in the browser. Using SignalR (websockets) as the primary "api" transport and a message bus to provide a scalable, realtime feel to the app.

I also built the devops pipelines to build, test and compile into docker containers using Helm to deploy to k8s clusters.

National skydiving team since 1998, representing the country on many occasions.

Game Digital – Contract Developer

Mar 2019 - Nov 2019

Digital Transformation project. Micro-services integrating legacy systems (JDA, WebSphere) with new Product Information Management system (Akeneo, Algolia).

C# in dotnetCore, Docker, Kafka, Algolia, Akeneo, Api's, caching, messaging, bitbucket, git, docker, private cloud

Created build system with Bitbucket/Bamboo. Ensured consistency, testing, versioning across all libraries and services. Created app framework to simplify creation of services (logging, metrics, config etc) and producing/consuming events on Kafka and IBM MQ.

GfK – Contract Developer

Jul 2018 - Feb 2019
(partially remote)

Sales Effectiveness – Price Promotion Tracker.

Scans sources for pricing information. Data is normalised, translated, aggregated into data stores with api's and a web ui. Clients can then track actual selling prices of their products or competitor pricing policies.

Processing via a messaging platform. Migration to dotnet Core, Linux containers, Kubernetes, Kafka. I worked across the system. Also created frameworks to ease creation of services and api's, applying standards and cross cutting concerns.

AWS, net4.6+, dotnetCore, RabbitMQ, Kafka, ElasticSearch, Api's, caching, messaging, vsts, git, docker, kubernetes, helm

Codit – Contract Developer

Feb 2018 - Jul 2018
(remote)

Parametric Natural Catastrophe insurance.

Uses authoritative sources to monitor events such as earthquakes and cyclones to automatically payout when the event matches the policy criteria. no human in the loop.

As a team member I worked on many parts of the system: api's; message handlers; catastrophe impact calculation; policy processing; automated testing; deployment pipelines ...

Azure, net4.6+, dotnetCore, ServiceBus, AppServices, LogicApps, Api's, caching, messaging, vsts, git

Blackbox – Contract Developer

Feb 2017 - Feb 2018

Information systems for UK train system.

Tracking trains on UK network. Processing messages from external systems. Maintaining internal data stores. Api's to drive customer facing displays and control room. Driving automated announcements with speech synthesis through a custom service to on site devices. Tested via emulation in software.

Azure, ServiceFabric, redis, cosmosdb, service bus, sql, c#, aspnetcore, mvc.

Moving to netstandard, akka, docker, kubernetes.

Global Radio – Contract Developer

Sept 2016 - Dec 2016

Working on the Ad scheduling systems.

Asp.net WebApi, Angular2, TypeScript, Kendo, dapper, SqlServer, CQS, RabbitMQ.

Resolved several performance issues (mainly threading and async).
Reworked backend framework, services and build system to improve DRYness and reduce developer friction.

Connections Education – Contract Developer

Apr 2016 - Jul 2016
(remote)

Member of a remote virtual team. Working within clients agile processes and closely with several project teams.

Involved in several aspects of updating CEs online education systems.
Gitflow based development within VSTS.

HttpClient based proxy for internal and external services. Custom formatters and serializers. Protection from async deadlocks.

Integrated 3rd party api via Azure ServiceBus to internal systems.

Created testing and mocking frameworks for testing services.

Artesian Solutions – Chief Architect

Aug 2007 - Feb 2015

A SaaS product providing internet content to sales and marketing. Uses a taxonomy to tag and categorise content. Users are supplied with relevant stories that allow them to engage with their prospects and customers. Also provides access to company information, both to individual companies and via segmentation/faceting to isolate a prospect list.

Joined at inception. Created or collaborated on core services. Raw content retrieved by custom spider and via 3rd parties. Taxonomy and content processing. Custom syntax and parsing. Distributed processing mechanism. Service Discovery. Centralised logging and metrics collection. Configuration systems. Multi-tenancy. Identity service. Early years infrastructure support. Developer systems (Jira, Confluence, TeamCity, Subversion, git). Worked with growing team to ensure common approaches and coach on how the core could be developed and exploited. Remaining time spent on research into product futures, implementation options and optimising performance bottlenecks.

Aprimo, USA – Principal Engineer

Jul 2004 - Aug 2007

Then ltd purchased by Aprimo. I moved to Indianapolis to incorporate Then's Asset Management system into their marketing product. LGPL licensed libraries required the writing of a PDF parsing and manipulation

library direct from the specs. Introduced Subversion. Also involved in building and supporting new features.

Then ltd – Senior Engineer

Oct 2002 - Jul 2004

Digital asset management. Introduced dotnet, C#, Asp.net. Developed customer facing web UI for storing, editing and scaling PDFs. Responsible for internal machines, servers and network including exposing the app to the internet.

Whitelight inc – Support, Trainer, Consultant

Apr 1998 - Oct 2002

Trainer, pre/post sales support and consultant on Whitelight ROLAP server product. Primarily aimed at data specialists, mostly in the financial sector. I created several custom desktop and html frontends to package the features for less technical users.

Cognos – Support, Trainer, Consultant

Sept 1992 - Apr 1998

Trainer, support and consultant on Cognos products, both Powerhouse and their desktop reporting and OLAP analysis suite. Many projects at large multi-nationals.

While in the Business Development Group I created a “game” which embedded the products into a desktop app written in Delphi. This was played by by prospects to show the value of analytics in a business context.

Haynes Publishing – Programmer

Aug 1987 - Sept 1992

Order processing, stock control, accounting.
Cognos Powerhouse 4GL on Data General, migrated to unix.
Created several systems level integrations between proprietary DG equipment and unix systems.

EDUCATION

Plymouth — Computer Science

1985 - 1987