Jean-Paul Thorne

Principal Software Engineer · Cape Town, South Africa · Remote, UTC+2

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SUMMARY

14 years building .NET back ends for fintech, sports betting and iGaming, mostly distributed and high-throughput systems. Hands-on engineer and tech lead, now using AI-driven workflows day to day.

EXPERIENCE

AccaMax (USS), Remote — Oct 2024 – Oct 2026 (contract)
Principal Software Engineer

- Built core .NET systems for an iGaming slots platform with AWS, Terraform, RabbitMQ and Confluent Kafka.
- Focused on rule-based statistical models for slot game mechanics, tuned and verified to certified RTP targets.
- Built the end-to-end test harness, and alerting and dashboards as code (Terraform, Grafana).
- Built some of the first games, when a back end took months to build by hand; after adopting coding agents with test-first development and review in 2026, the team shipped games 3x+ faster with no loss of quality.

KingMakers, Cape Town / Remote — Oct 2022 – Oct 2024
Senior Software Engineer

- Built .NET back ends on Azure with Akka.NET and Confluent Kafka as a hands-on individual contributor in a high-throughput sports betting environment, processing live market-update streams during in-play fixtures.
- Owned the virtual football fixture and market-data feed integration, adding new markets and a new product.

Global Kinetic, Cape Town / Remote — Aug 2018 – Aug 2022
Senior Software Developer, promoted to .NET Tech Lead

- Developed .NET Core microservices with Docker, Terraform and SQL, mainly on Azure, for fintech clients including Derayah (Saudi Arabia) and Capitec, then promoted to .NET Tech Lead for the .NET chapter.
- Established cross-team architectural standards in collaboration with the chapter, including DDD-shaped repositories and Snyk and Trivy security scans in CI, and researched and rolled out new tech to teams.
- Built sprint-zero vertical slices for new client projects, including Derayah's D360 on Kubernetes, so incoming teams had infrastructure, repos and CI/CD in place and could ship from sprint one.
- Held team 1:1s, provided project support, led the .NET chapter forums, wrote new technical interview questionnaires and interviewed candidates as the chapter grew.

Atura, Cape Town — Jun 2016 – Aug 2018
Software Developer, founding team

- Built consumer chatbots that went live for Nedgroup Investments and Nedbank Insurance: set up the initial Facebook integration, built much of the core framework, trained LUIS.ai models and onboarded new hires.

New Media Labs, Cape Town — Feb 2012 – Jun 2016
Software Developer

- Built Azure and on-prem client systems: plant management for AES and a CMS for Nedgroup Investments.

SKILLS

Languages and frameworks: C#, .NET, Akka.NET, REST APIs, TypeScript

Data and messaging: SQL, PostgreSQL, Table Storage, Cosmos DB, Kafka, RabbitMQ, Redis

Cloud and DevOps: AWS, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, GitHub Actions, GitLab, Jenkins, Azure DevOps

Practices: TDD, DDD, AI-assisted engineering workflows, Agile, Scrum, Kanban

Spoken languages: English and Afrikaans; Italian and German (beginner, for fun)

EDUCATION

Rhodes University, Grahamstown — 2008 – 2011
BSc (Hons) in Information Systems · Won the Accenture "Best Information Systems Student" award in second year