

Kusal Ekanayake

UX Designer - Software Engineer

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Links

🔗 kusal.nz
🔗 [Github](#)
🔗 [LinkedIn](#)

Education

Victoria University of
Wellington
Masters in User Experience
Design

University of Canterbury
BE Software Engineering
First Class Honours

Awards

**NxtStep Emerging Leaders
Award**
Top 3 in Technology
Category

**University of Canterbury
Blues Awards**
Community Engagement
and Outstanding
Contribution to the
Canterbury Community

Location

Currently based in
Wellington, New Zealand,
but looking to relocate.

Profile

Experienced software engineer, UX design specialist and frontend developer. Bridging user-centric design with technical implementation, collaborating effectively with users and stakeholders to create intuitive, visually appealing solutions. Committed to seamless, user-first design and development.

Experience

Frontend Development and UX Design

Dragonfly Data Science (2022 – Present)
Dragonfly Data Science specialises in tackling challenging problems with innovative data and statistical solutions.

Contributed to transforming data into engaging and impactful applications, reports, and websites. Within a close-knit team of three developers, the role encompassed:

- **Developing with web technologies (React, NextJs, Electron)**
- **User research and other UX processes**
- **UI design**
- **Team management and software engineering processes**
- **Analytics**

Notable project involvement includes:

- Collaborating on an interactive global COVID database dashboard using React
- Development of a lightweight tool for local cyclone response using satellite imagery and StatsNZ data
- An operational manual app for deep-sea fishing vessels built with Electron
- A web based transcription tool used to transcribe multilingual speech to aid in collecting policy consultation feedback with NextJs and React

Software Engineering

Verizon Connect (2016 – 2021)

Verizon Connect develops software which enables companies to handle the logistics of managing their vehicles and employees. Primarily worked in a team developing and maintaining several different mobile applications which are used by truck drivers across the world. Covered various roles and skills including **automation, QA/testing, team management, development and analytics.**

Previous Projects

Cyclone Impact Map

Dragonfly Data Science (2023)

The map allows people to view the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, which hit the North Island of New Zealand during early 2023. The interactive map uses satellite data to visualise flooded areas, deposited silt and slips, in combination with socio-economic information. The visualisation helps to better understand the impact on these communities so decision makers can make more informed decisions.

Contributed as the UX designer and frontend developer for this project.



[Website Link](#)

AudacityInstant

Dragonfly Data Science (2022-2023)

AudacityInstant, developed for GISAID, provides real-time analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genomes in relation to GISAID's global pandemic database. It offers custom queries, downloadable reports, and insights into genetic lineage, location, and spike protein mutations, aiding COVID-19 research and global health security. Since working on this project it now covers several other pathogens. The site lives behind a private service but there is an article which covers more of it.

Contributed to the software development and design of the frontend.



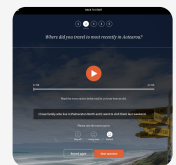
[Article link](#)

AotearoaSpeaks

Dragonfly Data Science (2022)

A tool that used a Dragonfly Data Science built voice transcription model specialising in “New Zealand english”. The purpose of the tool was to collect audio data under realistic conditions. It was to trial how a transcription service could be used as a government tool for consultation and engagement feedback. The site has been since retired.

Contributed to software development and design of the frontend.



[Website link](#)

CV Website

Freelance (2021 – Present)

A dedicated CV website as a UX designer and software developer to provide a streamlined and visually engaging platform for showcasing my professional journey. This website aims to present my qualifications and work in a concise, user-friendly manner, highlighting my commitment to both user experience and technical excellence. **Designed, built and curated the site.**



[Website Link](#)

WorkPlan

Verizon Connect (2018 – 2021)

Efficiently handles work orders, job updates, and forms on mobile devices. It integrates seamlessly with other Verizon Connect applications, facilitating job management and user access control. **Contributed to software development, automation, QA, team management and analytics.**



[App store link](#)

[Website link](#)

Workforce

Verizon Connect (2016 – 2018)

Efficient workforce management software for seamless communication with mobile workers and your fleet. Providing real-time visibility into field operations, optimising dispatch, enhancing customer service, and minimising the need for constant driver updates. Automatically logs driver statuses so they stay compliant with ELD mandates. **Contributed to software development, QA and analytics.**



[App store link](#)

[Website link](#)

Other projects not listed include Fishing vessel digital operation manual and portal and reproducible reports manager (like Github for reports).

Other Experience

UX Design

Victoria University of Wellington (2021 – 2022)

Studying a masters in UX design. Gained experience working with several industry clients.

Exploring UX processes to help develop solutions. Experience ranged from working with city councils to private car sharing companies. More information on projects covered within the masters can be found on kusal.nz

Software Engineering

Verizon Connect (2016 – 2021)

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Code Club Aotearoa

Coding Tutor (2018 – 2020)

Helped teach basic programming skills to primary school aged children. A former tutor at Haeata Community College teaching Scratch however, have previously taught HTML and JavaScript. Was featured as one of [Volunteering NZs volunteers for National Volunteer week](#). This helped improve **communication** skills.

Startup Weekend Christchurch

Generate - Designer (2019)

Participated in the startup weekend event and created an ongoing initiative to help generate positive social media interactions. This focused on educating young people to innovate better ways of using social media. This required giving technical presentations and crafting project plans allowing development of **presentational, planning and teamwork skills.**

Various Community Leader Positions

Clubs, collectives, calls (2018 - 2022)

An active member in the local community, ranging from university clubs (marketing manager for the computer society) to youth advocate groups (secretary and leader). These all helped develop **communication, teamwork, organisational and marketing skills.**

Freelance Creative Work

Design and Photography (2018 - Present)

Often commissioned design and photography work. Have photographed for events, people and musicians. Have also created and grown brand identities for organisations and festivals. This has helped cultivate **communication, design and creative skills** to a professional degree.

Hobbies & Interests

- Bouldering and climbing
- Film photography, gig and event photography
- Technology enthusiast which assists with the drive to learn and keep on top of tech
- Drummer and pianist of 15 years previous playing in several bands