

Darec McDaniel

Software Engineer

Darec.McDaniel@gmail.com | Jacksonville, FL 32211

Portfolio: darecmcdaniel.info | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/darec-mcdaniel | GitHub: github.com/sent1nel101

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Software Engineer with 15+ years of progressive IT experience spanning systems analysis, application development, technical support, and infrastructure administration. Proven ability to consult with business users to determine technology and application system requirements, evaluate feasibility, and recommend solutions aligned with organizational goals. Proficient in SDLC methodologies, ITIL framework best practices, and change management processes. Skilled in designing seamless connections between systems, testing application installations and upgrades, and coordinating implementations across production environments. Track record of increasing user engagement by 24%, reducing deployment errors by 40%, improving team efficiency by 35%, and cutting help desk turnaround times by over 40%. ITIL 4 Foundation and AWS Cloud Practitioner certified. BS in Software Engineering with expertise in Java, Spring Boot, Python, JavaScript, and relational databases.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Developer & Systems Consultant

Freelance | Remote | July 2025 – Present

- **Developing custom software solutions** using Java, Python, JavaScript, and modern frameworks (Spring Boot, React, Angular) to meet client business requirements
- **Implementing SDLC methodologies** and DevOps best practices including CI/CD pipelines for efficient, zero-impact deployment workflows
- **Designing and documenting technical solutions** with emphasis on maintainability, scalability, and system integration for diverse client environments
- **Creating comprehensive technical documentation** and knowledge transfer materials to support client self-sufficiency and ongoing system maintenance

Site Operations Specialist

Bluestem Brands | Remote | January 2022 – July 2025 (3 years 7 months)

Systems Analysis & User Consultation:

- **Drove requirements gathering** by consulting with internal business users across product, development, merchandising, marketing, and creative teams to identify technology needs and recommend web-based solutions
- **Managed system deployments** by coordinating cross-functional implementation of programs, subsystems, and database changes across production environments using Agile/Scrum methodologies
- **Supported feasibility analysis** by evaluating user requests, estimating time/cost requirements, and assessing compatibility with existing system configurations
- **Provided technical guidance** for application enhancements, upgrades, and change management processes using ITIL framework best practices
- **Partnered cross-functionally** with multiple stakeholders to support company-wide initiatives while ensuring seamless business operations

Application Development & Testing:

- **Increased user engagement 24%** by developing and testing responsive web applications using HTML5/CSS3 and JavaScript, resulting in 24% increased user engagement
- **Architected** and maintained CI/CD pipeline built on 3-tier architecture, ensuring zero-impact deployments and brand consistency across platforms
- **Improved application quality** through A/B testing methodologies, performance analysis, and cross-browser validation, boosting conversion rates 15%
- **Reduced deployment errors 40%** by collaborating with development teams on CI/CD pipeline optimization and automated testing procedures
- **Achieved ADA compliance certification** by implementing ADA/WCAG accessibility standards across web properties, achieving enterprise-level compliance

Technical Training & Knowledge Transfer:

- **Created and delivered comprehensive training programs** for team members on web standards, accessibility compliance, and modern development practices
- **Developed technical documentation** and SOPs that improved team efficiency by 35% through process standardization and automation

- **Mentored cross-functional team members** on responsive design, performance optimization, and UX best practices
- **Facilitated knowledge-sharing sessions** on emerging web technologies, A/B testing methodologies, and performance analysis tools

Freelance Web Developer & Technical Consultant

Self-Employed | Jacksonville, FL | July 2021 – January 2022

- **Built responsive web applications** using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, and MySQL databases for small business clients
- **Provided technical consultation** and training to clients on content management systems and website maintenance procedures
- **Conducted regular performance evaluations** and preventive maintenance to ensure website accuracy and optimal functionality
- **Designed websites and logos** to strengthen company brand identity and user experience

Systems Analyst

Apex Systems | Hybrid | 2010 – 2011

- **Designed and executed custom automation scripts** for remote Windows servers, achieving departmental efficiency goals and reducing manual administration overhead
- **Created and maintained comprehensive technical documentation** to increase productivity and streamline internal processes across distributed teams
- **Enhanced system performance** through strategic maintenance, upgrades, and implementation of corrective action plans
- **Established system restoration procedures** to support disaster recovery readiness and operational continuity

Tech Support Analyst

First Coast Energy | Jacksonville, FL | March 2008 – June 2010 (2 years 4 months)

Systems Support & Monitoring:

- **Provided frontline technical support** across 50+ workstations and 5 server environments, maintaining 99.5% uptime through proactive monitoring, health checks, and rapid incident response
- **Wrote test and automation scripts**, monitored system health dashboards, and troubleshooted complex technical errors, resolving an average of 30+ tickets per week
- **Improved system reliability** by performing strategic upgrades, patch management, and corrective action plans aligned with business continuity requirements
- **Consulted with end users** to map current operating procedures, clarify application objectives, and translate technical specifications into non-technical requirements for testing and user acceptance

Process Improvement & Documentation:

- **Developed training documentation and runbooks** that reduced system downtime by approximately 20% through standardized troubleshooting workflows and preventive maintenance schedules
- **Created help desk knowledge base and ticketing systems** that improved ticket turnaround times by over 40%, streamlining issue escalation and resolution tracking
- **Maintained comprehensive technical documentation** for hardware installations, software upgrades, and network configuration changes, ensuring audit-ready compliance
- **Established knowledge transfer protocols** and procedural standards for future support actions, enabling consistent service delivery across shifts
- **Defined decision matrix and recovery procedures** for system, job flow, and database restoration, coordinating work-arounds and recoveries during outage events

KEY PROJECTS

Full-Stack Employee Management System: Fully deployed enterprise Java application built with Spring Boot, Spring MVC, MySQL, and RESTful APIs following SDLC methodologies. Achieved 90%+ code coverage via JUnit TDD. Integrated CI/CD pipeline for production deployment.

Career Migration Tool – FutureMap: Fully deployed, AI-powered career migration tool built using JavaScript, HTML, and CSS. Features several tiers of paid services, free tiers, user login and authentication, industry standard security, and extensive real-world application.

Sypha AI Chat Interface: Interactive AI application built with Python, Flask, and modern web technologies featuring real-time communication, API integration, and comprehensive architectural documentation.

Android Vacation Planning App: Native Android application using Java, Android SDK, and Room Framework with authentication, data persistence, notifications, and Material Design UX.

Social Media Application: Deployed, full-featured web application using JavaScript, Node.js, RESTful API services, and real-time data synchronization.

Database Management System: MySQL/PostgreSQL implementation with normalized schema design. Optimized query performance by 50% through stored procedures and indexing strategies.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, JavaScript (ES6+), Python, TypeScript, PHP, SQL, HTML5, CSS3 (SASS/CSS Grid), C#

Frameworks: Spring Boot, Spring MVC, React.js, Angular, Flask, jQuery, Bootstrap, Node.js

Systems & Analysis: SDLC, ITIL Framework, Requirements Analysis, Change Management, Process Improvement, Feasibility Assessment

Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, Room Framework, JDBC, Database Design, Data Modeling, SQL Optimization

Cloud/DevOps: AWS (Certified), Azure, CI/CD Pipelines, Git, GitHub, GitLab, Infrastructure Automation, 3-Tier Architecture

Testing: JUnit, Selenium, Jest, TDD, Automated Testing, UAT, Quality Assurance

Infrastructure: Windows Server, Active Directory, System Administration, Network Design, Desktop Virtualization

Tools: IntelliJ IDEA, Eclipse, VS Code, Figma, Adobe Photoshop, Office Suites, CMS Platforms

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Science, Software Engineering | Western Governors University | Feb 2026

GPA: 3.5 | AI Engineering Track | 119 Credit Units

Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering | Western Governors University | July 2025

GPA: 3.5 | Java Development Track | 89 Credit Units

Associate of Science, Information Technology | ITT Technical Institute | 2008

Enterprise Systems Administration | Network Design & Administration | Desktop Virtualization

Certifications:

- **ITIL 4 Foundation** | February 2025
- **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner** | February 2024
- **CompTIA Project+** | August 2024
- **Microsoft Certified Professional (MCDST, MCSA, MCSE)** | 2008

Micro-Credentials:

- **Front-End Developer** | January 2025
 - **Back-End Developer** | July 2025
-

CORE COMPETENCIES

Analysis & Design: Systems Analysis, Requirements Gathering, User Consultation, Feasibility Assessment, Solution Architecture

Development: Full-Stack Web Development, OOP, API Integration, Mobile Development, Database Management

Process & Methodology: SDLC, ITIL, Agile/Scrum, Change Management, TDD, Performance Tracking & Measurement

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS Solutions, CI/CD Pipelines, System Administration, Network Management, Disaster Recovery

Collaboration: Cross-Functional Teams, Technical Documentation, Vendor Relations, Training & Mentoring, Knowledge Transfer

LANGUAGES

German – Native Speaker | English – Native Speaker

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Inbal Goldman | Creative Director, Bluestem Brands | igold0821@gmail.com | 646.508.8784

Jon Shade | Ecommerce Director, Bluestem Brands | jon_shade@hotmail.com

Isaac Miller | Director Brand Marketing & eCommerce, Bluestem Brands | miller.isaac@gmail.com

Darren Schott | Director Brand Merchandising, Bluestem Brands | darrenschott@hotmail.com

Jennifer Dinallo | Graphic Designer, Bluestem Brands | Jdinalloesigns@gmail.com