

DAVID TAIT

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Right to work: UK · Open to Singapore relocation (Employment Pass)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Engineering leader with 15+ years building onboarding, compliance, and data platforms in regulated industries, including two tier-1 investment banks. Eight years delivering a full-lifecycle KYB/KYC/AML and identity-verification platform deployed across professional services and real-estate finance; currently leading business onboarding and compliance on Cox Automotive Europe's Connected Data Platform. I lead teams hands-on, close to the code and delivering through change, with deep expertise in .NET, event-driven microservices, and cloud data platforms on AWS and Azure.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Onboarding & Compliance Platforms: KYB · KYC/AML screening (LexisNexis, Shufti Pro) · identity verification · e-signature · GDPR multi-tenant

Engineering Leadership: multi-team leadership across US, Europe and India · spec-driven, AI-assisted workflows (Claude, GitHub Enterprise) · mentoring · stakeholder management to board level

Architecture: event-driven microservices · real-time systems · .NET · AWS & Azure · Terraform IaC · ClickHouse / PostgreSQL / DynamoDB

Regulated Delivery: banking · defence · financial compliance · Kanban with continuous deployment at enterprise scale

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cox Automotive Europe – Lead Engineer

Nov 2025 – Present

- Lead two full-stack engineering teams (9 engineers) delivering the onboarding and compliance foundations of the Connected Data Platform, an event-driven AWS platform (Terraform IaC, DynamoDB, Lambda, S3) fronted by .NET Minimal APIs and React.
- Delivered the platform's core onboarding and compliance capabilities: automated KYB and KYC/AML screening (LexisNexis Risk Narrative), EU VAT validation (VIES), and machine-to-machine authentication (Auth0), all shipping to production multiple times a day through fully automated GitHub Actions CI/CD pipelines.
- One of the engineering leads implementing the organisation's shift from AI code-completion to structured, spec-driven AI development (Claude, GitHub Enterprise), defining the workflow with principal engineers, proving it within my teams, and supporting wider adoption.
- Leading both teams in a fully AI-driven engineering workflow: Kanban-based delivery where work is specified, built and reviewed through spec-driven AI development as standard practice.

CONNECT N.V. – Lead Engineer, Onboarding & Compliance Platform

Jul 2016 – Nov 2024

Long-term engagement run concurrently with other roles, at varying intensity as the platform evolved from build to global rollout.

- Led the end-to-end design and delivery of a global client onboarding and compliance platform covering the full lifecycle: KYB, KYC/AML screening and identity verification via Shufti Pro, document collection with OCR and generative-AI extraction, and legally compliant e-signature (RightSignature). Replaced manual, in-person onboarding workflows.
- Architected analyst-controlled, fully customisable onboarding workflows (N8N event-driven automation, Dagster ETL) with data lineage and GDPR compliance across multi-tenant deployments for clients including Grant Thornton.
- Secured sensitive data flows with role-based access via OpenID Connect across tenants.
- As Technical Director of sister venture Connect The Market (2023–present), led deployment of the platform into real-estate finance in the Dutch Caribbean: property transaction onboarding with AML/KYC, identity checks, and compliant electronic contract signing.

ACSI Labs / FutureView – Lead Engineer (Contract)

Jul 2021 – Oct 2025

- Led development of the FutureView simulation platform: designed the full architecture and built the agent-based microservice backend that drives the entire simulation engine, powering complex 3D training for clients including Anglo American and the US Marines, and processing high-volume, real-time telemetry streams with ClickHouse warehousing and real-time analytics dashboards.

- Integrated event-driven architectures supporting dynamic scenario generation and immediate feedback loops for cognitive-science-based training, delivering measurable improvements in learning retention and outcomes; centralised authorisation via OpenID Connect (Keycloak).
- Took a personal project from concept to production deployment, directly winning a new client contract worth several million dollars in revenue; the FutureView application was named a Finalist in the 2025 Serious Games Showcase & Challenge, sponsored by the National Training Systems Association.

Deutsche Bank – Lead Technical Architect (Contract)

Oct 2018 – Apr 2019

- Led a multidisciplinary, global team across the UK and India designing the management portal for a critical internal big-data platform.
- Spearheaded resolution of complex enterprise SSO and internal cloud deployment challenges by bridging technical and design organisations.

Viion / Babcock / Royal Navy – Lead Engineer

Oct 2016 – Sept 2018

- Led a team of developers and artists engineering a Unity3D nuclear submarine simulator for Royal Navy commanding officers, designing the platform architecture and building the backend framework and networking infrastructure, including live simulation recording for full session replay.
- Built the real-time physics model enabling training facilitators to trigger dynamic in-world disaster events and observe operational responses, producing real-world training outcomes and identifying improvement areas for participants.

Nomura – Lead Technologist (Contract)

Jul 2011 – Jan 2012

- Designed a new Global Research Portal used by the bank's traders and clients worldwide to access and subscribe to analyst and financial research.
- Conducted global user research with traders, analysts, and institutional clients to define functional requirements and ensure the platform met front-office needs.

Carbon River / Vital Metrics – Data Platform Engineer

Nov 2011 – Sept 2017

- Architected the conversion of a single-user Excel tool into a scalable multi-user web platform for environmental impact reporting of listed companies, driven by their underlying financial ledger data.
- Reduced analyst report preparation from over a week to hours, with sub-second calculations across millions of data points, delivering significant financial savings and environmental impact benefits for clients such as Travis Perkins.

EARLIER & SELECTED ENGAGEMENTS

Additional engagements include The World Bank (African diaspora investment portal, with the proof of concept selected for further internal investment), QinetiQ (multiplayer virtual-world framework and internal team enablement), GHF Global / Futures First (live futures-exchange data integration and trading simulator), Freighthood (international shipping workflow platform), and Invest in Africa (supplier tender platform, Ghana and Kenya).

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

Design, build and operate a personal algorithmic futures-trading platform: .NET microservices with Zebus messaging, sub-200ms decision latency, executing live ES/MES futures trades via broker APIs. Also run a self-hosted Kubernetes (k3s) environment with a full observability stack (Grafana, Tempo, Pyroscope).

EDUCATION

University College London (UCL), M.Sc. Human-Computer Interaction with Ergonomics

University of Bath, B.Sc. (Hons) Computer Information Systems, 2:1