

enlighten designs

For more information, check out enlighten.co.nz

Enlighten Designs is the Waikato-based creative technical agency where the team lives and breathes innovation.

From discovery and design to web development, to e-commerce and app development, they love the work they do, and they're always on the look-out for the next keen person to join them.

FutureForce® caught up with Enlighten Graduate Power Platform Developer (Software Developer) Christian Conder to find out more...

WORKING AT ENLIGHTEN DESIGNS

Perks to keep the team thriving and happy on the job:

- Career development
- Innovative tech
- Modern workplace
- Diverse team
- Freedom of expression
- Company lunches
- Social events
- Annual salary review
- Birthday cakes and back rubs!

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



CHRISTIAN CONDER
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Christian to chat about his role...

How did you get this job?

I've always been interested in computers, but never really considered specifically doing software development until I started looking through the university course catalogue. I thought it looked pretty cool and decided to give it a go! I ended up really enjoying it.

I never knew software development was a thing so it wasn't until later on I discovered what it is. I'm pretty good with computers so it made sense to pursue something to do with them – play to my strengths.

What do you do?

A lot of what I do is focused around learning and enhancing my skills. Power platform is really cool as it is Microsoft's low code platform which allows you to rapidly build applications. The goal of it is to reduce paperwork and increase efficiency. Day-to-day there's a lot of decision making and innovating involved in each of the projects we get. I am still learning about my role as I'm only a few months in, but I'm excited for what's to come!

Useful subjects?

Calculus and Physics in particular were two subjects that really taught me how to problem solve and taught me critical thinking. These are two very key skills in any sort of career in technology. I think these skills I gained in high school helped me through university as well. Taking these subjects in school set up a good base for the further knowledge I would gain in university. I majored in Information Science. This degree gave me a lot of hands on experience.

TOP CAREER TIP

DON'T STOP LEARNING. I'VE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE TO LEARN BEYOND THAT. I SEE IT AS YOU'VE PROVEN THAT YOU CAN LEARN, SO WHY STOP?

CHRISTIAN CONDER
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER



What do you love about what you do?

I've really enjoyed being able to sit in with my supervisor/mentor – my tech lead. I've been able to sit in with my tech lead on different steps of the project I'm currently working on, so I've loved being able to get up to speed on how everything works. Being allowed the time to get up to speed without the pressure of having to perform immediately has helped me ease into this work a lot easier. It's important in a workplace to have the ability to ease into work – it removes a lot of the pressure so I can get comfortable, get up to speed, and when the time comes I will be ready to charge ahead on my own. As a graduate I still have a lot to learn. I love this dynamic a lot.

I really enjoy building applications. There's a lot of variety in between each of the projects we as a company take up. Being a consulting company we get to work with a range of different businesses who have different needs, so the difference between projects keeps it exciting. It's always fun heading into a new project and trying to figure out what the client needs. It always starts with a conversation, and then you dig deeper to the problems.



DIP YOUR TOES INTO A FEW DIFFERENT THINGS TO SEE WHAT YOU LIKE. ONCE YOU FIGURE THAT OUT, GIVE IT A GO!

What does someone need to know when starting out at work?

To take notes. Either in your head, physically, or both. There's a lot to learn when you start out at work, so this can be helpful in retaining all of that knowledge. Also, preparation is key!

What is the best career advice you have received?

One thing I was told early on was to try and dip your toes into a few different things to see what you like. Once you figure that out, give it a go! If it's not working out and it's something that you're not really enjoying after giving it a good try, consider making a change.

QUALITIES OF A SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

What sort of person do you need to be for this role?

- Problem solver
- Confidence in yourself. You've gotta back yourself and your ideas. You can learn this along the way in the workplace too
- Adaptable
- Flexible
- Able to work well with other people
- Collaborative
- Able to know when to ask for help

What do you like most about working at Enlighten Designs?

Enlighten Designs is a very inclusive workplace and has a good environment. I got a really good sense of this during the interview process. The interview process was quite thorough – there was a values interview where they asked me to share what I personally value. They dove a bit deeper which was nice to see that they care about you as a human. They're really focused on creating a team of great people rather than a team of great workers.

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