

CRUE WATENE

Art Programmer

DETAILS

Contact

Eporo Tower, Melbourne, 3134, Australia crue.watene@hotmail.com 0460717172

Date / Place of birth

17/01/1996

New Zealand

PROFILE

Unreal Engine specialist and full-stack developer with a passion for building connected, real-time systems.

Nationality

Maori / Australian

Experienced in designing interactive experiences and networked technologies that bring people together—whether through games, platforms, or immersive tools.

Please view my portfolio at https://imcrue.com

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

IT Solutions, Antisocial Media, Canada

JANUARY 2025 - JUNE 2025

Independently designed and developed a full 3D platformer prototype from the ground up using Unreal Engine

- Built core gameplay systems including movement, jumping, platforming logic, collectibles, checkpoints, and obstacles/hazards
- Engineered modular character avatar systems, mechanics, allowing for scalable design and future expansion
- Created interactive UI/UX elements such as menus, collectible counters, and in-game prompts
- Integrated animation systems for character movement, interactions, and cinematic sequences using Unreal's Animation Blueprint
- Designed and implemented visually distinct levels with thoughtful progression and increasing difficulty
- Conducted iterative testing and polish, focusing on responsiveness, player feedback, and platforming precision; Completed GPU profiling and full optimization
- Integrated high-scale capacity multiplayer services for indepedent networking outside of native Unreal Engine servers & integrated them with other Antisocial Media server infrastruture.
- Integrated blockchain interactions for smart contracts, NFT wallets and more.

Independently developed a browser-based 3D avatar locker using React and Three.js, allowing users to customize characters in real time

- Integrated wallet login (via Futureverse SDK) to load and display owned NFT-based items
- Designed a responsive UI for item selection across categories like clothing and accessories
- Connected to a CSV-based backend for dynamic item loading and easy content updates

• Ensured cross-platform compatibility and modular structure for future expansion

Developed the Wear3 digital shop system for distributing redeemable NFT wearables and claimable rewards

- Built a secure claimables portal, allowing users to view, claim, and transfer NFT items tied to real-world physical products
- Designed a web-based admin panel for managing inventory, redeemable collections, expiration dates, and user access
- Integrated wallet authentication and metadata filtering to display only eligible or owned claimable items
- Implemented claim verification logic, including location checks, one-time use codes, and real-time NFT transfers
- Supported databases for scalable item, user data management, transactions & shipping orders
- Integrated various API such as XUMM wallet, google autofill, CanadaPost.
- Focused on clean UX/UI to make the claiming process smooth and accessible for both Web3-native and general users

Independently developed a cross-platform social engagement system for Antisocial Media, integrating Discord and Twitter APIs to reward user interaction and activity

- Built a custom Discord bot that tracked reactions, check-ins, and hype events, awarding social points for engagement
- Designed a shop system within Discord where users could spend earned points on rewards, NFTs, or exclusive in-game content
- Integrated the bot with other systems across the Antisocial Metaverse, enabling seamless data flow and consistent user experience
- Implemented blockchain wallet integration, allowing users to link wallets and earn or spend assets through verified interactions
- Engineered a Hype Train system to boost participation around key announcements, drops, or events
- Designed systems for scalability, ensuring consistent performance during high-traffic social campaigns and event launches

Lead Programmer, BHTech, Melbourne, Australia

NOVEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

Indepedently developed a training simulation tech-demo/configurator in Unreal Engine for a construction company, showcasing various heavy-duty machinery and industrial workflows

- Created interactive tutorials for operating drilling rigs and other construction equipment in a realistic worksite environment
- Designed and implemented intuitive UI/UX systems to guide users through complex machinery operations
- Utilized Unreal's Sequencer to script guided demonstrations and cinematic walkthroughs
- Optimized the project for pixel streaming, enabling real-time access to the simulation via web browser
- Focused on both visual fidelity and functional accuracy to meet training standards and real-world expectations

Lead Game Developer, Archons, California, USA (Remote)

AUGUST 2024 - NOVEMBER 2025

Independently developed a full-scale open-world survival MMORPG for a returning client, following the successful delivery of *The Armadillos* trading card game.

- Developed core mechanics and gameplay systems for an open-world MMORPG
- Engineered network infrastructure to support a high capacity of concurrent players
- Implemented combat mechanics, AI behavior, and player progression systems

- Integrated advanced visual effects, including clothing physics
- Utilized Quixel for efficient importation of high-quality assets

Programmer, BitFry, New Hampshire, USA (Remote)

APRIL 2024 - JULY 2024

Designed and implemented a custom server framework for multiplayer functionality for a basketball game.

- Developed network replication logic and input mechanisms for synchronized gameplay.
- Collaborated with the team to troubleshoot and resolve network and gameplay issues.
- Contributed to server-side authorization and player spawning system development.
- Integrated user storage, login features, and matchmaking capabilities.
- Led the deployment of dedicated server infrastructure on Azure cloud platform.

Lead Game Developer, Byte Sized Interactive, Netherlands (Remote)

OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

Independently developed the first prototype for a top-down fantasy MMORPG, handling all core systems from concept to implementation

- Designed and implemented game mechanics, character classes, unique abilities, combat systems, and AI behavior for enemies
- Built high-capacity multiplayer server infrastructure to support large-scale player interactions in real time
- Developed supporting systems including leveling, progression, inventory, and animation programming
- Translated loose design notes from the client into a complete, playable experience
- Managed the entire development lifecycle independently—from technical design and system architecture to testing and iteration
- Oversaw end-to-end project management, ensuring delivery of a polished prototype aligned with the game's creative vision

Lead Game Developer, Yaku Corp, France, Europe (Remote)

JUNE 2023 - JULY 2023

Independently designed and developed the motorbike racing game for "Yaku Corp," showcasing futuristic sci-fi motorbikes.

- Leveraged the latest Chaos/PhysX plugins within Unreal Engine 5 to engineer authentic & realistic motorbike physics.
- Developed the core gameplay framework for a racing game, including racing mechanics, ranking systems, matchmaking, and vehicle selection
- Built procedural environment generation tools to reduce asset costs and speed up development
- Created adaptable systems to support future integration of visual and audio assets
- Collaborated with designers and artists to shape engaging and responsive gameplay features
- Responsible for the entire project management and maintained clear, developer-friendly documentation to support future team contributions

Lead Game Developer, Jerry Wang, Fortworth, Texas (Remote)

MAY 2023 - JUNE 2023

Independently designed and developed the foundational framework for "Incorporated," a turn-based multiplayer game inspired by the acclaimed "Atlas Reactor."

- Collaborated closely with Jerry to co-design gameplay mechanics, loops, and other critical systems.
- Efficiently managed design documentation through Milanote, ensuring organized and streamlined development.
- Orchestrated the complete project life-cycle, from initial design concepts to full development.

Lead Game Developer, The Factory Games, Nevada, Las Vegas (Remote)

MARCH 2023 - MAY 2023

Independently designed and developed the game Kite Fighter.

- Led the full development of a real-time kite flying simulation, including core gameplay loop and matchmaking systems
- Built scalable server infrastructure capable of supporting up to 40,000 concurrent players on a 2GB RAM server
- Developed secure backend systems with database integration for player data, progression, accounts, and rankings
- Implemented NFT integration, allowing users to link and use their collectibles as in-game kite assets
- Designed an in-game shop with currency systems and upgrade mechanics
- Integrated Google Play Store purchasing for real-money transactions
- Deployed and submitted Android builds for Google Play Store publishing and review

Lead Game Developer, Studio Gyris, Wollongong, NSW Australia

NOVEMBER 2022

Independently developed the racing game for Gyris, showcasing collectible characters from the Gyris metaverse.

- Orchestrated end-to-end development of a multiplayer racing game, encompassing foundational features akin to those in Mario Kart (racing mechanics, ranking systems, power-ups, power-sliding, etc.).
- Collaborated harmoniously within a diverse and extensive team comprising artists, musicians, social media developers, and designers.

Senior Programmer, Game Drafters, United Kingdom (Remote)

AUGUST 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022

Collaborated on a flying racer game with the "Race Federation," showcasing collectible NFT flying ships.

- Created intuitive driving assistance systems for varied difficulty levels.
- Engineered flying physics, weaponry, and gameplay mechanics.
- Designed & developed overall gameplay loops, race laps, rankings, UI, HUD displays and more.
- Integrated NFT stats to dynamically modify in-game character attributes.
- Created debugging tools for game adjustments, testing, bug fixing or design.

Lead Game Developer, The Armadillos, California, USA (Remote)

MAY 2022 - JULY 2022

Independently designed and developed a complete trading card game demo, later sold to the Armadillos Group.

- Orchestrated the comprehensive development of a multiplayer game, seamlessly integrating it with blockchain technology.
- Engineered distinctive and complex gameplay systems tailored to individual characters and card collectibles.
- Responsible for recruiting and management of artists to translate the 2D artwork of The Armadillios characters into 3d renditions & integrated them into the project.

Senior Programmer, Golden Treb Studios, California, USA (Remote)

FEBRUARY 2022 - APRIL 2022

Contributed as a pivotal team member to the Reign & Ruin game (survival), a venture backed by a successful Kickstarter campaign.

• Responsible for the creation of intricate multiplayer survival game systems and mechanics encompassing combat, building construction, items, PVP, and beyond.

- Embraced and embodied the project's vision, surpassing established benchmarks with remarkable success.
- Elevated my role to a senior capacity, providing guidance and instruction to a junior programmer in their front-end responsibilities.

Programmer, Skymap Games, Boston, New York (Remote)

APRIL 2021 - OCTOBER 2021

Contributed to the development of *Rolled Out!*, a physics-based platformer, focusing on backend infrastructure and frontend design

- Implemented solutions to floating-point precision issues, enabling deterministic multiplayer and consistent replays
- Led frontend development, creating intuitive UI/UX for menus, character selection, HUDs, and controller support
- Collaborated with designers and artists to deliver a polished and accessible player interface
- Enhanced gameplay and user interaction through responsive and visually engaging frontend systems
- Fixed bugs, added new features, and optimized performance to improve the overall user experience

Contributed to the development of StarWave (VR), a music game similar BeatSaber/RockBand.

- Crafted immersive 3D user interfaces within the realm of VR.
- Resolved and upheld optimal functionality of backend gameplay systems.
- Collaborated seamlessly with music production plugins.

Programmer, Adam Kareem, Canada (Remote)

JANUARY 2021 - MARCH 2021

Contributed to the development of *Protodroid Delta*, a shoot-em-up/platformer with a culturally diverse character cast

- Designed and implemented core AI systems, including custom behaviors and interactions
- Developed physics-based gameplay features that enhanced character dynamics
- Assisted with debugging and gameplay refinement across multiple areas
- Earned a strong recommendation from the team, leading to a role at Skymap Games

EDUCATION

Year 10, Heathmont Secondary College, Melbourne, Australia

JANUARY 2011 - DECEMBER 2021

Year 12 VCAL, Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Melbourne, Australia

JANUARY 2014 - DECEMBER 2016

Information Technology (VET), Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Melbourne, Australia

JANUARY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

LINKS

Portfolio LinkedIn

SKILLS

Adaptability Fast Learner

Computer Skills Microsoft Excel

Ability to Work in a Team Ability to Work Under Pressure

Adobe Photoshop Microsoft PowerPoint

Wordpress Microsoft Office

C++ jQuery HTML CSS

React Node.js

HTML5 JavaScript
Unreal Engine C++ & C#

UE4/5 Blueprints HTML & CSS

SQL Git
Slack, Trello, Monday.com PHP

MySQL GPT4 Integration

Audacity Debugging

Artificial Intelligence Database integration

MMO-Server development Mobile Deployment

Porting to Console/Switch VR

Matchmaking Protocols Front-end development (UI/UX)

Physics-based simulation Gameplay programming

Project leadership Procedural Generation

Debugging and bug fixing