David Neal

Senior Developer Advocate · Author · Illustrator



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SUMMARY

Senior developer advocate and DevRel leader with more than a decade of experience building developer programs, technical content, and reference applications. Currently at MongoDB; previously at Plaid, Pluralsight, ActiveCampaign, and Okta. Co-author and illustrator of *Developer Relations Activity Patterns*, combining hands-on engineering with visual explanations that make complex systems easier to understand.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Author:** co-wrote and illustrated *Developer Relations Activity Patterns* (Apress, 2026), 39 DevRel patterns, each with how to measure whether it's working
- **Speaker:** keynotes, talks, and workshops at 170+ events in 15+ countries since 2011
- **Visual explainer:** An Illustrated Guide to OAuth and OpenID Connect video, 829K YouTube views (Nov. 2026)

EXPERIENCE

MongoDB *Senior Developer Advocate* · Remote May 2026 – Present

- Built Inkleaf, an open-source desktop notes app demonstrating MongoDB Atlas search, Voyage AI, and offline-first sync, using Tauri (Rust), React, and TypeScript
- Write and record video tutorials for the MongoDB YouTube channel, such as *What's New in MongoDB 9.0?*
- Deliver hands-on workshops in person at AI Builder Day events and online
- Write the "From the Field" column for MongoDB's monthly developer newsletter

Plaid *Developer Relations Engineer* · Remote July 2025 – May 2026

- Built Plaidypus, an open-source reference application demonstrating end-to-end API integration and OAuth/OIDC flows in Node.js and TypeScript for Plaid data partners
- Supported data partners implementing Core Exchange, Plaid's Financial Data Exchange (FDX) API
- Integrated Algolia search into the React and Markdown documentation platform for financial-institution developers

ReverentGeek.com *Independent Developer Relations Consultant* · Remote March 2024 – July 2025

Software development, content strategy, content creation, illustration, and events for companies including Slack, SavvyFi, WordPress.com, Asana, and Builder.io.

MotherDuck *Developer Advocate (Developer Advoduck)* · Seattle, WA (remote) September 2023 – February 2024

Improved developer marketing and developer experience with content, documentation, illustrations, and presentations for the DuckDB and MotherDuck data science and analytics community.

Pluralsight *Principal Developer Advocate* · Draper, UT (remote) March 2022 – July 2023

- Created and hosted All-Hands On Tech Live!, streaming web development projects with Node.js, Vue, Electron, and Tailwind CSS on Twitch, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Facebook
- Helped run Pluralsight Link/ 2022 and 2023, unconference events for tech content creators, including a hands-on electronics workshop

ActiveCampaign *Developer Relations Manager* · Chicago, IL (remote) November 2020 – March 2022

- Established and led the DevRel team for ActiveCampaign's app marketplace and integration ecosystem, setting program strategy
- Improved API documentation, tutorials, and SDKs, and built apps and integrations
- Created a developer support system and rebuilt developer communities in forums and social media

Okta *Senior Developer Advocate* · San Francisco, CA (remote) September 2018 – October 2020

- Led developer marketing to the JavaScript and Node.js community with posts, videos, and talks
- Wrote and illustrated An Illustrated Guide to OAuth and OpenID Connect and its companion video

Joyent *Product Engineer* · San Francisco, CA (remote) March 2018 – August 2018

Developed new APIs for Samsung's cloud platform using Node.js, hapi, GraphQL, Vue.js, Go, and Docker.

LeanKit (now Planview AgilePlace) *Developer Advocate, Senior Software Developer* · Franklin, TN (remote) February 2013 – March 2018

- Created the developer advocacy role to support platform APIs and integrations
- Developed and launched a new reporting and analytics API with Node.js, hapi, JWT, SQL, and Docker
- Built custom integrations in .NET, Node.js, and Electron, plus open-source .NET and Node.js SDKs

SKILLS

- **Developer Relations:** developer experience, technical writing, video, workshops, speaking, community, illustration
- **Languages and frameworks:** JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, React, Vue, Vite, Express, Fastify, Electron, Tauri, C#, .NET
- **Data and platforms:** MongoDB Atlas, vector and hybrid search, embeddings, SQL, APIs and SDKs, OAuth/OIDC, AI coding tools such as Claude Code

SPEAKING AND COMMUNITY

- **Keynotes:** NDC Oslo, DDD Perth, jsMobileConf, DevNexus, ConFoo Montreal, DevReach, JavaScript and Friends, Code PaLOUsa, THAT Conference, CodeStock
- **Nashville .NET User Group:** President (2012 – 2013) and Secretary (2011). Led a twice-monthly meetup series for 200+ members and increased sponsorship funding by 40%

PUBLICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND AWARDS

- *Developer Relations Activity Patterns*, Apress, 2026, co-author and illustrator
- Microsoft MVP, Development Technologies, 2014 – 2025; A.S., Computer Science, Dalton State College