

Chris Dowling

.NET & FIX / OMS SPECIALIST · CLOUD & TRADING SYSTEMS

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PROFILE

.NET engineer, two decades specialising in the FIX protocol and front-office OMS work, built on an earlier career in back- and middle-office investment banking. Lead architect of hedge fund Lansdowne Partners' FIX trading engine for most of that time; more recently building FixPortal, a cloud-hosted FIX simulation platform on Azure. Have built critical systems both as part of a team and as sole engineer; comfortable in either environment.

CORE SKILLS

Languages & data	C#, .NET / .NET Core, PowerShell, T-SQL · MS SQL Server, EF Core
FIX & trading	FIX protocol (multi-version), quickfix/n (proprietary fork), FixAtdl, OMS/EMS, drop-copy & platform order routing (Bloomberg, TS Imagine, Instinet)
Market data & venues	Bloomberg (Desktop API, B-PIPE, Data License, EMSX, Tradebook, FXEM), TS Imagine (TradeSmart), Instinet (Newport), Linedata Beauchamp (FMD & API), MIK Fund Solutions
Desktop & services	WinForms, REST APIs, SignalR, Wolverine (Azure Service Bus)
Architecture & quality	Domain modelling, SOLID, design patterns, automated testing (xUnit, NSubstitute)
AI tooling	Agentic coding (Claude Code), governed by automated tests, static analysis and independent multi-model review
Cloud & DevOps	Azure (Container Apps, SQL, Static Web Apps, Key Vault, Service Bus), Bicep (IaC), GitHub Actions CI/CD, CodeQL, Git / GitHub

INVESTMENT-BANKING DOMAIN EXPERIENCE

Hedge Fund OMS (front office) · Structured Credit · Asset Management · Energy Trading · Structured Products · Swaps · Equity Derivatives

FLAGSHIP PROJECT

FixPortal: FIX Simulation & Testing Platform

2025 – Present

Founder & Principal Engineer · github.com/FixPortal

- Self-directed, cloud-hosted FIX acceptor / session simulator (QFSIM) that lets trading teams exercise connectivity and order flow against a configurable counterparty; deep FIX/OMS domain knowledge brought to a greenfield product.
- End-to-end modern stack: .NET / C# backend, React / TypeScript (Vite) front end, EF Core, Wolverine messaging over Azure Service Bus, SignalR real-time; deployed to Azure (Container Apps, SQL, Static Web Apps, Key Vault) via Bicep IaC and GitHub Actions CI with CodeQL.
- Includes a FixAtdl (FIX Algorithmic Trading Definition Language) parser/renderer, a CI status dashboard, and real-time session logging.
- Developed through a quality-governed AI-assisted workflow comprising automated testing, static analysis, independent multi-model review and final human inspection. The tooling is published as an open reference: github.com/FixPortal/claude-skills.
- Mentored a junior contractor whose responsibilities across product and UX included design, copy and UAT.

EXPERIENCE

Lansdowne Partners

London · May 2011 – Aug 2015

Independent .NET & FIX Consultant

- Lead architect and developer of the internal FIX engine: a proprietary fork of quickfix/n that carried all client order flow in production, with no tolerance for downtime. Grew it from unsolicited drop-copies to full bi-directional order placement across multiple platform venues (Bloomberg, TS Imagine, Instinet), FIX versions and asset classes; also engineered direct-to-broker routing.
- Built core front-office OMS trading functionality: complex program trades, portfolio-manager instruction by email and GUI, order tickets supporting multiple book and custodial allocations, and trade upload to the back-office accounting system.
- Built the desktop OMS front end (WinForms) and supporting Windows services, with multi-asset order booking and real-time & delayed Bloomberg price feeds (Desktop API, B-PIPE, Data License).
- Embedded on the trading desk as the FIX/OMS specialist, working directly with traders, portfolio managers and middle office to deliver and support front-office workflows.

YJC Solutions Ltd*

London · 2015 – Present

Independent .NET & FIX Consultant · Financial Technology

Specialist consultancy practice in FIX protocol, front-office OMS/EMS, and buy-side trading systems, continuing the Lansdowne engagement alongside broader delivery and advisory work.

- Continued to own and extend the FIX engine and front-office OMS; ran client-side deployment, configuration and ongoing trading-desk support.
- Architect of the OMS-to-back-office (Linedata Beauchamp) integration: data translation, static-data import, reconciliation, trade matching, and secure file transfer.
- When that back-office provider suffered a sudden, ultimately permanent loss of service in 2025, re-architected the OMS to remove the dependency, re-routing trade processing, reconciliation and static-data workflows without operational disruption.
- Delivered modern web front ends and REST/SOAP service layers over the OMS, with a real-time logging module, a pre-trade rules engine, order validation, notifications and CI/CD pipelines.

CDO Software

London · Sep 2006 – Jan 2011

Lead Developer (C#, SQL Server)

- Full-lifecycle lead on a synthetic-CDO management platform: development, application design, client liaison, and process design.
- Transitioned the product suite from .NET 1.1 to 3.5 (WinForms → WPF; typed collections → generics & LINQ; refactored to SOLID / MVVM and core design patterns) and established CI and unit testing.
- Integrated rating-agency models (Moody's CDOROM, S&P CDO Evaluator) and built asset-substitution, compliance-testing, scenario-analysis and notching components, plus CDO Scheduler, a server-side market-data ingest service (Markit, CMA, Reuters LPC, S&P, Moody's, Fitch) with a WPF client.

EDF Trading

London · Mar 2004 – Sep 2006

Senior Developer (C#, Oracle)

- Senior developer in a team of 10 driving EDF Trading's migration to .NET, one of Europe's principal wholesale energy traders.
- Built a new power & transmission scheduling system (C#, Oracle 9i) and delivered a real-time front-office trade-capture system using MSMQ and XML; mentored PowerBuilder developers cross-training in .NET.

Earlier Career

London · 1997 – 2003

- **HSBC Asset Management**, Analyst Programmer: entity-wide VB6/VBA RAD solutions (fund-management factsheets, shared COM libraries, a 3-tier query-logging application).
- **Banca Commerciale Italiana**, Analyst Programmer (Middle Office): VBA Excel tools and add-ins, Kondor+ / KSQL, settlement processes for a new desk.
- **Chase Manhattan / JP Morgan**, operations: exotic equity-option support and US\$ cash-equity settlements.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)**, April 2026 · Verify on Microsoft Learn

EDUCATION

- **University of Dundee**, MA (Hons), English Literature

* Full engagement history and references available on request.