

Senior Backend Developer

senior level · 7.2 years experience



53/ 100



66potential

Filling in the missing metrics, fixing the heading, and evidencing Kubernetes/AWS from real work would lift impact and craft substantially. The ceiling stays moderate because PostgreSQL and production Kafka experience are structural gaps no rewrite can close.

You read as a credible senior .NET engineer with genuine payments-domain exposure — the .NET 8 migration you led at Bytegrove is your strongest card. What holds you back is that not a single bullet carries a number, and the eighteen-month gap before Bytegrove is unexplained, so a screener has to take everything on faith. Quantify the payments API and the migration, and this becomes a very different resume.

Advanced analysis · 20 credits

What an AI Screener Sees

■ Automated screening report

MAYBE

The candidate matches the core .NET stack and holds a relevant CS degree, but shows no PostgreSQL, no Kafka, and no demonstrated production Kubernetes or AWS work. Payments-domain experience at the current employer is the main reason not to reject outright. Flagged for human review only if the shortlist runs thin.

Decisive factors

1. PostgreSQL (required) absent from the resume
2. 2. Kubernetes and AWS appear only as skill keywords with no supporting experience
3. 3. Current payments API role is directly relevant to the team's domain

Keyword scan

C#: found.NET 8: foundKubernetes: found (skills list only)AWS: found (skills list only)PostgreSQL: missingKafka: missingRabbitMQ: foundTerraform: missinggRPC: missing

Simulated by a separate AI screening agent that saw only your CV and the job description: the same view a high-volume automated screener gets. It is deliberately colder than the coaching report above.

Your Action Plan

1. 1

Replace the "MY JOURNEY" heading with "Experience" so ATS parsers recognise your work history.

MinutesQuick fix

Addresses: ATS readiness check: standard_headings

Impact: Lifts resume_craft by removing the one heading most likely to break automated parsing.

2. 2

Rewrite the "Improved API response times significantly" bullet with the real before/after latency numbers.

About an hourContent

Addresses: Suggested rewrite: "Cut p95 API response times..."

Impact: Directly raises evidence_of_impact — it is currently your weakest dimension because no bullet is quantified.

3. 3

Answer the brainstorm questions on the payments API's client count and transaction volume, then add those numbers to your top Bytegrove bullet.

About an hourEvidence

Addresses: Brainstorm prompt: payments API scale

Impact: Raises scale_and_scope by proving the criticality your senior title claims.

4. 4

Add a bullet to Bytegrove or Northlight describing real deployment work with Docker/Kubernetes or AWS — or remove them from the skills list.

About an hourContent

Addresses: Weakness: skills listed but never demonstrated

Impact: Moves R3/R4 from hollow keywords toward partial or met in requirement_fit.

5. 5

Add a one-line explanation for the 2021-2023 gap (e.g. career break) at the top of Experience.

MinutesQuick fix

Addresses: Weakness: unexplained eighteen-month gap

Impact: Protects career_trajectory — an explained gap reads far better than one left for a screener to guess at.

6. 6

If you have any PostgreSQL exposure from side projects or earlier roles, evidence it; if not, expect keyword screens for this JD to fail on it.

OngoingStrategy

Addresses: Requirements matrix: R5 (missing)

Impact: requirement_fit is capped while a named must-have is entirely absent.

Score Breakdown

Requirement fit55

Core stack matches ("Built REST APIs in C# and ASP.NET Core", ".NET 8"), but PostgreSQL — a stated must-have — appears nowhere, and Kubernetes/AWS exist only in your skills list. A missing must-have caps this dimension.

Evidence of impact48

Every achievement is unquantified: "Improved API response times significantly" is the closest you come to an outcome, and it has no number attached.

Scale & scope45

"the core payments API used by clients" hints at criticality but no traffic, client count, or team size is ever stated, which undersells a senior title.

Career trajectory62

Clean junior-to-senior progression across three companies, but the gap between 2021-08 and 2023-03 is unexplained and recent.

CV craft58

Bullets are scannable and dates are complete, but "MY JOURNEY" as a section heading will confuse ATS parsers, and JD keywords like PostgreSQL and microservices are absent.

ATS Keyword Coverage

50%

keyword coverage

70%

of must-have keywords

Missing from your CV

✗ PostgreSQL ✗ Kafka ✗ microservices ✗ Terraform ✗ Grafana ✗ Prometheus ✗ gRPC

Found in your CV

✓ C# ✓ .NET ✓ Kubernetes ✓ AWS ✓ RabbitMQ ✓ REST APIs ✓ Bachelor's degree in Computer Science *

* found as a variant or abbreviation. Strict keyword matchers may miss it, so consider mirroring the job description's exact wording.

ATS Readiness

1 warning

- ✓

Contact info in parseable text

Name, email, and phone are present as plain body text.

- !

Standard section headings

"MY JOURNEY" is a non-standard heading — rename it to "Experience" so parsers can find your work history.

- ✓

Dates on every role

Every role has a readable start and end date.

- ✓

Single-column layout

The document uses a single-column layout that parses cleanly.

- ✓

No graphics-only information

No images, icons, or text boxes that would break extraction.

- ✓

Text-based document

All text is selectable and machine-readable.

- ✓

Appropriate length

Content volume is appropriate for roughly seven years of experience.

- ✓

Scannable bullet density

Achievements are written as scannable bullets rather than paragraphs.

Job Requirements Coverage

5+ years of professional backend development experience

Met

“Senior Backend Developer - Bytegrove Ltd, Manchester / Mar 2023 - Present”

Roughly seven years of employment clears the bar, though the 2021-2023 gap will get checked.

Expert-level C# and .NET (.NET 8 microservices)

Met

“Led the migration of legacy services to .NET 8”

Current, hands-on .NET 8 work — this is your strongest line against the JD.

Kubernetes in production

Partial

“C#, ASP.NET Core, SQL Server, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Redis, RabbitMQ”

Kubernetes appears only in the skills list; a screener will not credit a required skill that no bullet demonstrates.

AWS (ECS/EKS, SQS, RDS)

Partial

“C#, ASP.NET Core, SQL Server, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Redis, RabbitMQ”

Same problem as Kubernetes: listed, never evidenced, and the JD names specific services you never mention.

PostgreSQL and relational data modelling

Missing

Your database evidence is SQL Server; PostgreSQL is a named must-have and its absence will cost you keyword screens.

Event-driven architectures using Kafka or RabbitMQ

Partial

“C#, ASP.NET Core, SQL Server, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Redis, RabbitMQ”

RabbitMQ in a skills list is not an event-driven architecture story; no Kafka anywhere.

Designing and operating REST APIs at scale

Partial

“Built REST APIs in C# and ASP.NET Core for the logistics platform”

API design is evidenced; "at scale" is not — no volume, latency, or availability numbers exist anywhere.

Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related field

Met

“BSc Computer Science, University of Leeds, 2017”

Clean match.

Terraform / infrastructure as code

Missing

Nice-to-have, but its absence reinforces the thin infrastructure story.

Observability tooling (Grafana, Prometheus)

Missing

Not mentioned; on-call experience at Northlight could have carried this if tooling were named.

Strengths

- ✓
You led a platform-level modernisation in your current role, which is exactly the seniority signal this JD wants. “Led the migration of legacy services to .NET 8” Bytegrove Ltd — Senior Backend Developer
- ✓
You work in the payments domain the employer operates in. “Working on the core payments API used by clients” Bytegrove Ltd — Senior Backend Developer
- ✓
Steady progression from junior to senior across three companies shows real momentum. “Junior Developer — PixelForge Agency, Leeds / Sep 2017 - May 2019” Dates

Weaknesses

- !
There is an unexplained eighteen-month employment gap immediately before your current role. “Jun 2019 - Aug 2021 ... Mar 2023 - Present” Dates
- !
Not one bullet on the resume contains a number, so every achievement reads as unverified. “Improved API response times significantly” Bytegrove Ltd — Senior Backend Developer
- !
Kubernetes, AWS, and RabbitMQ are listed as skills but never demonstrated in any role's bullets. “C#, ASP.NET Core, SQL Server, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Redis, RabbitMQ” Skills section
- !
The JD's required PostgreSQL experience is absent; your only database evidence is SQL Server. “Wrote SQL Server stored procedures and optimised slow queries” Northlight Systems — Backend Developer

Questions You Should Expect

“What were you doing between August 2021 and March 2023?”

Triggered by: gap between 2021-08 and 2023-03

How to prepare: Have a one-sentence, factual account ready (study, family, freelance, sabbatical) and pivot straight to what you shipped at Bytegrove.

“You list Kubernetes and AWS — describe a production incident you handled on that stack.”

Triggered by: C#, ASP.NET Core, SQL Server, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Redis, RabbitMQ

How to prepare: If your exposure is limited, say precisely what you have done (e.g. deployed to a managed cluster) rather than defending the list.

“You say response times improved significantly — what was the actual before and after?”

Triggered by: Improved API response times significantly

How to prepare: Dig out the real p95 numbers before the interview; a concrete delta turns your weakest bullet into your best.

“How large is the payments API you work on — traffic, clients, team?”

Triggered by: Working on the core payments API used by clients

How to prepare: Know your system's scale numbers cold; senior candidates are expected to quantify criticality without hesitation.

Suggested Rewrites

Original

Working on the core payments API used by clients

Improved

Develop and operate the core payments API serving [N] clients and processing [X] transactions per day on .NET 8

You need to fill in: number of clients, daily transaction volume

Why: Turns a passive duty statement into an ownership claim with the scale evidence R7 asks for.

Original

Improved API response times significantly

Improved

Cut p95 API response times by [X%] (from [Y]ms to [Z]ms) by profiling and optimising the hottest endpoints

You need to fill in: percentage improvement, before/after latency

Why: "Significantly" convinces no one; a latency delta is the single most credible performance claim you can make.

Original

Led the migration of legacy services to .NET 8

Improved

Led the migration of [N] legacy services to .NET 8 with [zero/minimal] downtime, cutting deployment time by [X%]

You need to fill in: number of services, downtime, deployment-time saving

Why: Adding scope and outcome converts a good bullet into direct evidence for R2 and your seniority.

Original

Mentoring two junior developers on the team

Improved

Mentor two junior developers through weekly 1:1s and code review, [outcome: e.g. both now own services independently]

You need to fill in: mentoring outcome

Why: An outcome makes mentorship a leadership claim instead of a calendar entry.

Brainstorming Prompts

- How many clients integrate with the payments API, and roughly how many transactions does it process per day?Bytegrove — "Working on the core payments API used by clients"Scale numbers are the difference between a duty and a senior-level ownership claim.
- How many services did the .NET 8 migration cover, and what did it improve — build time, hosting cost, error rate?Bytegrove — "Led the migration of legacy services to .NET 8"You led this work; without scope it earns a fraction of the credit it deserves.
- What were the response times before and after your optimisation work, and how did you measure them?Bytegrove — "Improved API response times significantly"This bullet already claims the win; it just needs the number to be believable.
- What was the worst incident you handled on-call at Northlight, and what was the impact of your fix?Northlight — "Took part in on-call rotation and incident response"A concrete incident story evidences production operations — your thinnest area against this JD.
- Did the slow queries you optimised at Northlight have measurable results — query time, page load, report generation?Northlight — "Wrote SQL Server stored procedures and optimised slow queries"Database performance numbers partially offset the missing PostgreSQL keyword by proving depth.

Where You're Strongest

You're applying at the right level

The JD asks for a senior engineer with 5+ years; your title, tenure, and migration leadership match that level, though your evidence understates it — the resume proves less than you have likely done.

Senior .NET Developer

Current .NET 8 migration leadership ("Led the migration of legacy services to .NET 8") plus seven years in the C# ecosystem is exactly this market's core ask.

Lead with: The .NET 8 migration, the payments API ownership, and your mentoring of two juniors.

Backend Engineer (Payments/Fintech)

Payments-domain exposure ("the core payments API used by clients") is scarce and commands a premium; your stack matches the sector's .NET-heavy incumbents.

Lead with: Payments API work first, then reliability signals: on-call experience and incident response at Northlight.

API Developer (C#/.NET)

"Built REST APIs in C# and ASP.NET Core" plus current API ownership makes API-focused roles your highest-probability interviews.

Lead with: REST API design at Northlight, API contract collaboration with frontend, current payments API operation.

One deliberate move away

Platform Engineer

Gap to close: You need demonstrated production Kubernetes/AWS work — one real deployment migration or infrastructure project turns your skills-list keywords into evidence.

Engineering Team Lead

Gap to close: Extend the mentoring you already do into owned delivery outcomes — lead a project end-to-end and quantify the team result.

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