Hi, I'm Micheal.

I've been building software for over twenty-five years. Long enough to remember when "deployment" meant FTP, when "integration testing" was a Friday-afternoon problem, and when nobody used the word "DevOps", because it didn't exist yet. I started out as Build Master at the London Stock Exchange, back when Build Master meant spending hours going through CruiseControl.NET and NAnt tasks like a needle in a haystack. Before that I was a research assistant in Galway, working on telescope instrumentation with NASA, Rutherford Appleton, and the Russian 6m observatory at the BTA. I lectured for a couple of years in the Computer Science department at Galway University. Then I spent two decades building enterprise systems across Finance, international pharma, and now the energy sector.

But this isn't a CV. This is about something that's actually new.

A while back I started using AI seriously in our development work. Not the "ask ChatGPT for a snippet" kind. The integrated, agentic kind. Claude Code. OpenClaw (our own orchestration layer, a long story for another page). Full automation across builds, testing, observability and deployment, with data pipelines and telemetry built in from the start. We call this **Data and AI Augmented Engineering**: data-driven feedback loops, AI agents handling the routine work, and human engineers focused on the decisions that actually matter.

> *For me, AI Augmented Engineering breaks down to roughly:*
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> |---|---|
> | **60%** | Deterministic CLI, API and MCP automation |
> | **30%** | An AI team of experts |
> | **10%** | Human ingenuity |

Every line of code is understood. Every change is reviewed and tested. We've just stopped wasting time on the parts a machine should be doing.

The result, frankly, surprised me.

My daughter Aisling is on a three-year apprenticeship through Belfast Metropolitan College, now in her second year and soon to graduate with a foundation degree in Software Development and Cloud Analytics. In the last twelve months, working alongside me and Claude Code, she built a complete bespoke CRM for an organisation that needed one. Razor Pages on .NET. Azure SQL Serverless, Azure Blob Storage, Entra ID auth. A full operational and reporting layer with custom JavaScript charting that I'd have struggled to write from scratch five years ago. The kind of system that, in 2015, would have taken a small team of mid-level developers the better part of a year. She built it at roughly a day a month on-site, while studying.

Which is the thing nobody is telling you about AI in business right now:

> *Data and AI augmentation isn't replacing senior engineers. It's making junior engineers extraordinarily capable, when there's a senior engineer guiding the architecture.*

That's the whole insight, and it's why this consultancy exists.

ColhounTech is a small family business. I lead architecture and direction. Aisling and her brother Diarmuid (a year behind her in college, and in some ways always competing to be ahead) do most of the day-to-day building. The augmented approach lets us deliver substantially more for substantially less, without giving up the things that have always mattered: quality, understanding, testability, and someone who actually cares whether the system works in five years' time.

We've been quietly proving it on our own projects. **Orbsen IQ**: an AI-native CRM for coaches and consultants. **VideoBatch**: a cross-platform video pipeline tool. **Disruptive Secrets**: a research platform for X/Twitter intelligence. A handful more. Every one is shipped, in real use, and built with the same approach we'd bring to your work.

If you're a growing business with systems that need fixing, building, or rethinking, and you'd like to work with a small team that genuinely cares about the outcome, get in touch. I read every message that comes in personally.

Mícheál.