JC Kirwan

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Skills Summary

Technology:

React, TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, TailwindCSS, AlpineJS, NodeJS, PHP, Laravel/Blade, Git, GraphQL, NX, NextJS, GatsbyJS, Redux Toolkit, Apollo, Styled Components, Material UI, React Testing Library, Jest, Storybook, WordPress Development, Contentful CMS, Headless CMS, CI/CD, Mixpanel, LaunchDarkly, Scrum, Agile

Soft Skills:

Leadership, Collaboration, Mentoring, Empathy, Tenacity, Problem-solving, Communication, Public Speaking, Management

Relevant Work Experience

Senior Software Engineer II / Frontend Tech Lead - Chesapeake Technology International

12/2024 - Present

Skills Utilized: React, Typescript, CSS, Apollo, GraphQL, Styled Components, TailwindCSS, Jest, React Testing Library, Material UI, Storybook, Docker, Redux Toolkit, NX, Figma

- Led development of a software development kit (SDK) to simplify ecosystem integration, reducing ramp-up time for new engineers and increasing internal adoption.

- Led the Alpha sub-team of frontend engineers (Principal to Intern), mentoring across levels and setting direction for UI architecture and execution.

- Modernized GIS situational awareness tools by developing a next-gen application within the Team Awareness Kit ecosystem, improving mission-critical operations in disconnected and degraded environments.

- Enabled modular, scalable development by implementing a micro-frontend and remote plugin architecture, resulting in independently deployable features and faster release cycles.

- Integrated external data sources on classified networks and optimized performance for disconnected operation, enhancing reliability and reducing risk.

- Established and championed frontend engineering standards, resulting in improved code quality, better cross-team alignment, and fewer regressions.

- Translated large, client-driven epics into well-defined user stories and tasks, enabling predictable sprint execution and improved team velocity.

- Collaborated closely with UX designers to ensure logical, comprehensive user interactions, improving usability and reducing user feedback cycles.

- Identified and implemented improvements across the frontend toolchain, enhancing build performance and reducing developer friction.

- Delivered product features and enhancements aligned with evolving user needs, contributing to consistent product value and stakeholder satisfaction.

Senior Software Engineer - Chesapeake Technology International
1/2024 - 12/2024

Skills Utilized: React, Typescript, CSS, Apollo, GraphQL, Styled Components, TailwindCSS, Jest, React Testing Library, Material UI, Storybook, Docker, Redux Toolkit, Redux, NX, Keycloak

- Partnered with cross-functional teams to define, design, and deliver new product features, ensuring alignment between engineering, design, and stakeholder priorities.

- Integrated complex external APIs and data sources, enabling dynamic feature development while maintaining security and performance requirements.

- Extended a shared design system and component library with support for both MaterialUI and TailwindCSS, streamlining UI development across multiple engineering teams.

- Built a full-featured documentation site for the component library, significantly increasing adoption and improving developer self-service.

- Integrated and customized TailwindCSS Catalyst components into the design system, improving design flexibility while maintaining visual consistency.

- Wrote robust unit and integration tests, proactively addressing edge cases and improving reliability across core components.

- Diagnosed and resolved high-impact bugs and performance issues, contributing to a smoother user experience and fewer production incidents.

- Researched and adopted emerging frontend technologies and libraries, driving continuous improvement in performance, developer experience, and maintainability.

- Participated in full Agile development cycles, including PI planning, sprint estimation, and retrospectives, while ensuring blockers were proactively surfaced and addressed.

- Spearheaded key frontend feature development in a cross-functional Agile team, contributing to timely and high-quality sprint deliverables.

- Delivered reliable, well-tested code with a strong focus on edge cases and performance, increasing code coverage and decreasing QA churn.

Senior Frontend Engineer - Owl Labs
3/2022 - 9/2023

Skills Utilized: React, React Testing Library, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, TailwindCSS, Storybook, TypeScript, NodeJS, Contentful CMS, Mixpanel, LaunchDarkly, NPM, Yarn, Agile, Scrum, Collaboration

- Spearheaded the development, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of the Owl-UI design system built with TailwindCSS and JavaScript, leading to a substantial increase in prototyping speed for all team members and fostering brand consistency.

- Executed a comprehensive refactoring of the Owl-UI component library, built with React and Storybook optimizing its alignment with the Owl-UI design system, resulting in increased efficiency and usability.

- Successfully integrated the Owl-UI design system and component library into the Nest, a prominent SaaS product created by Owl Labs with React, showcasing a seamless transition and adaptation of design elements.

- Drove major innovations in the Room-Designer application, built with React and JavaScript, ultimately securing victory in the Owl Labs 2023 Hack-a-thon, highlighting a knack for creative problem-solving and excellence in development.

- Displayed mastery in writing self-documenting code and creating robust unit tests with React Testing Library for the Nest, reinforcing a commitment to code quality and reliability.

- Designed and executed the overhaul of the primary navigation feature within the Nest using React and JavaScript implementing it via a Launch Darkly feature flag for seamless quality assurance testing within a production environment, emphasizing a strategic approach to development.

- Engineered a user-friendly login experience for the Nest, using React and JavaScript and leveraging AWS Cognito, to streamline login, forgot password, and sign-up processes, prioritizing an intuitive user journey.

- Pioneered the redesign of the Nest's Dashboard using React and JavaScript, enabling in-production quality assurance testing through a Launch Darkly feature flag, ensuring a seamless and reliable user experience.

- Advocated for and implemented integration of the Contentful CMS into the Nest. This included building components for announcements, banners, and maintenance mode. This work allowed non-technical product managers to make critical, timely updates to content in the Nest without engineering oversight, code changes, or deployments.

- Actively participated in rigorous code reviews of React, JavaScript and TypeScript code, with the frontend team, assuring the codebase consistently met agreed-upon standards and best practices, fostering a culture of quality assurance.

- Championed accessibility initiatives for the Nest by enhancing primary navigation and other elements to ensure complete keyboard and screen reader navigation, emphasizing inclusivity and user-centered design principles.

- Offered mentorship and guidance to junior developers and interns.

Frontend Developer - Northeastern University

10/2018 - 3/2022

Skills Utilized: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, TailwindCSS, Laravel/Blade, WordPress, Contentful, Git, Storybook, PHP, NPM, Composer, Yarn, GitHub, Agile

- Developed and meticulously maintained websites utilizing a diverse range of cutting-edge technologies, including Laravel Blade, JavaScript, SCSS, Angular, and React highlighting a versatile skill set and adaptability.

- Actively engaged in rigorous code reviews to uphold team standards, ensuring code quality and best practices were consistently adhered to.

- Made substantial contributions to the evolution of the Kernl-UI design system, built with TailwindCSS and JavaScript demonstrating a commitment to design excellence and innovation.

- Played a pivotal role in the creation and evolution of the Kernl-UI-Blade library of Laravel Blade components, showcasing expertise in front-end development and design system integration.

- Spearheaded the project to create companion component library of Kernl-UI-React

components using React and Storybook.

- Demonstrated skill and expertise by successfully crafting the Kernl-theme WordPress theme, seamlessly integrating Kernl-UI, Kernl-UI-Blade, and Sage, and utilizing JavaScript, PHP, Laravel Blade, AlpineJS, and TailwindCSS.

- Built features into the Program Information Management system headless CMS, and integrated its content into the NU Graduate site.

- Built React single page calendar application leveraging Contentful CMS and Kernl-UI design system.

- Collaborated closely with the development team to enhance user experiences on our websites through a continuous cycle of iterative improvements, emphasizing a customer-focused approach.

- Effectively managed and maintained development and staging servers, ensuring a stable and secure development environment.

- Effectively mentored junior developers, interns and part-time staff.

- Provided valuable guidance on development practices for web applications and web infrastructure, contributing to a culture of best practices and knowledge sharing.

- Strategically planned and executed tasks in response to changes in infrastructure and vendor application support, showcasing adaptability and forward-thinking.

- Implemented efficient CI/CD deployments using Github Actions, streamlining the development process and ensuring code quality and reliability.

Web Developer | Contract - WGBH / PBS FRONTLINE

3/2020 - 3/2022

Skills Utilized: React, GatsbyJS, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, PHP, Headless CMS, WordPress

- Built the interactive website for "Un(re)solved," an Emmy Award-winning multimedia project using GatsbyJS, SCSS, and headless WordPress, showcasing strong project management and development skills.

- Contributed to the continuous improvement and innovation of Frontline's award-winning website by developing key features and enhancements using PHP, SCSS and JavaScript, underscoring a commitment to excellence and ongoing skill development.

- Crafted project-specific standalone websites using GatsbyJS, SCSS and headless WordPress, effectively meeting unique demands and demonstrating adaptability and a solution-oriented approach to web development.

Web Developer - University of Florida

3/2014 - 10/2018

Skills Utilized: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, PHP, WordPress

- Led website development and maintenance projects for UF Human Resources and the office of the CFO using JavaScript, PHP, WordPress and CSS, demonstrating accountability and reliability in delivering web solutions for key university departments.

- Spearheaded the development and deployment of a custom UF-News WordPress theme using PHP, JavaScript, WordPress, and Bootstrap, showcasing technical prowess and a deep understanding of web development.

- Innovatively designed and implemented a user-friendly "job board" using JavaScript that efficiently collected and displayed data from Interfolio, a faculty-recruitment tool, streamlining the hiring process for academic personnel.

- Led the redesign and relaunch of the UF Law website, leveraging a custom-built WordPress theme.

- Managed one full-time employee, two part-time employees and several interns.

- Consistently developed and maintained a diverse portfolio of WordPress websites using JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, and SCSS, highlighting a strong and ongoing commitment to web development and management.

- Demonstrated leadership by overseeing and successfully executing digital development projects, including a pioneering interactive digital signage initiative, exemplifying project management skills and innovation.

- Skillfully analyzed user needs to accurately determine the requirements of digital marketing projects, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and optimizing user engagement.

Education

- MA, Mass Communication, University of Florida, August 2005
- BA, English, University of Florida, December 2000