Don Stevenson

Full Stack Developer

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Professional Summary

6+ years of full-stack development experience building scalable web applications and leading technical initiatives for enterprise clients, including Ford and Manulife. Proven expertise across the entire technology stack - from crafting intuitive React frontends to architecting robust backend APIs with Node.js, PHP, and Java SpringBoot.

Beyond writing code, I'm passionate about growing development teams and sharing knowledge. As a mentor at Lighthouse Labs, I've guided dozens of aspiring developers through their coding journeys, while also leading company-wide demo sessions and fostering clear communication between technical teams and stakeholders.

My diverse background spans software engineering, music education, and team leadership, bringing a unique, multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving that helps me build not just functional applications, but also meaningful user experiences.

Technical Skills

Frontend: React, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, Next.js, Gatsby
Backend: Node.js, Express, PHP, Laravel, Java SpringBoot, Ruby on Rails
Databases: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MySQL
Cloud & DevOps: Netlify, GitHub Actions, CI/CD pipelines, Google Apps Script
Testing: React Testing Library, Cucumber, Jest, E2E testing
CMS & E-commerce: Contentful, WordPress, Shopify, Wix
APIs & Integration: RESTful APIs, Google Maps API, GoodRx platform integration

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Professional Experience

Full Stack Agile Software Engineer

TribalScale | December 2021 - May 2025 | Toronto, ON

Enterprise Client Projects:

- **Ford USA & Europe Fleet Management:** Built the entire frontend for a fleet repair management application using React, streamlining operations across multiple international markets and improving maintenance efficiency for thousands of vehicles

- **Manulife Banking Application:** Contributed key features to Canada's banking platform frontend, implementing React components with comprehensive testing using React Testing Library and Cucumber E2E testing to ensure reliable user experiences
- **Prescription Discount API:** Engineered a Java SpringBoot API integrating with GoodRx's platform for DayaMed customers, delivering seamless medication price comparisons with robust error handling and comprehensive documentation

Internal Innovation & Platform Development:

- **ScriptRunner Platform:** Developed driver, pharmacy, and task management interfaces using React, integrating Google Maps API for location services and ensuring responsive design with Tailwind CSS
- **Ebux Cryptocurrency Trading Platform:** Built a full-stack trading platform from the ground up - Laravel/PHP backend with React/TypeScript frontend, demonstrating versatility across different technology stacks
- **Resource Optimization System:** Collaborated on Google Apps Script automation that optimized engineer-to-project assignments based on technology expertise, significantly improving resource allocation across the organization

Leadership & Company Impact:

- **Weekly Demo Sessions:** Hosted company-wide presentations for over a year, showcasing project progress and fostering transparent communication between development teams and stakeholders
- **Website Evolution:** Led complete redesign of company website, migrating from Gatsby to Next.js with Contentful CMS integration, implementing CI/CD pipeline on Netlify for improved performance and content management
- **Technical Mentorship:** Guided multiple co-op students through professional development, providing hands-on coding guidance and career advice that contributed to their successful transitions into full-time developer roles

Full-Stack Developer Mentor & Project Evaluator

Lighthouse Labs | March 2021 - December 2021 | Toronto, ON (Contract)

Played a pivotal role in transforming aspiring developers through intensive 12-week bootcamp programs, combining technical instruction with career guidance:

- **One-on-One Mentorship:** Provided personalized guidance to students learning HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Node.js, React, and database technologies, helping them build confidence and technical proficiency
- **Code Review & Quality Assurance:** Conducted regular code reviews, offering constructive feedback to improve programming skills, debugging techniques, and code quality standards
- **Capstone Project Evaluation:** Assessed final student projects for technical implementation, creativity, and industry readiness, ensuring graduates met professional development standards
- **Workshop Facilitation:** Led group discussions on software engineering best practices, version control with Git, testing methodologies, and deployment strategies
- **Curriculum Development:** Collaborated with the instructional team to identify areas for program improvement and enhance the overall learning experience

Impact: Many mentees successfully transitioned to full-time developer roles, attributing their career success to the guidance and support provided during the program.

Frontend Web Developer

Sebastian Knox Woodwind Services | April 2020 - Present | Toronto, ON (Contract)

Led complete digital transformation of e-commerce platform, driving significant business growth through technical innovation:

- **Platform Migration & Growth:** Successfully migrated from Wix to the Shopify ecosystem, implementing custom features using Shopify's Liquid platform with custom JavaScript functionality, resulting in a 20% increase in online sales
- **Custom Development:** Built custom e-commerce features and integrations, creating seamless product management and order fulfillment processes
- **SEO & Performance Optimization:** Implemented comprehensive SEO best practices, improving organic visibility and customer discoverability
- **DevOps Implementation:** Created a modern CI/CD pipeline via GitHub for developer collaboration and streamlined deployment processes

Full-Stack Developer

Harbourfront Centre | April 2021 - September 2021 | Toronto, ON (Contract)

Led development and launch of the organization's flagship website (harbourfrontcentre.com):

- **Full-Stack Architecture:** Architected and implemented responsive frontend using WordPress, PHP, HTML5, and CSS3, creating engaging user experiences for Toronto's premier cultural venue
- **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Worked closely with design and content teams to translate creative concepts into cohesive, high-performing web applications
- **Best Practices Implementation:** Championed adoption of version control with Git/GitHub, automated testing, and CI/CD workflows
- **Technical Leadership:** Mentored other developers and provided technical guidance, ensuring on-time, on-budget project delivery

Result: The website received widespread praise for its modern aesthetic, intuitive navigation, and seamless integration of event listings and ticketing systems.

Frontend Web Developer

Forward Thinking Psychological Services | October 2020 - April 2021 | Toronto, ON (Contract)

Enhanced digital presence and user experience for mental health services practice:

- **UI/UX Improvements:** Implemented design updates using HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript to create modern, responsive, and accessible website experiences
- **SEO & Digital Marketing:** Conducted comprehensive SEO audits and implemented optimization strategies to boost organic visibility
- **System Migration:** Led transition from legacy IMAP to Google Workspace, improving team collaboration and productivity tools
- **Ongoing Support:** Provided technical maintenance and support, ensuring the website remained current and fully functional

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Independent Projects

Team Balancing Application: Designed and deployed a full-stack Next.js solution for creating fair soccer teams using algorithmic player distribution based on skills, gender, and other attributes. Features drag-and-drop interface, a modified serpentine draft algorithm, and printer-friendly team sheets.

E-commerce Platform: Built a Ruby on Rails-based online store with full payment integration and inventory management.

Appointment Scheduler: Developed a React-based scheduling application with real-time availability and calendar integration.

Goal Achievement App: Created a behavioural psychology-based goal tracking application using React, Express, and PostgreSQL, implementing nudge theory principles to improve user success rates.

Education

Web Development Bootcamp | Lighthouse Labs, Toronto, ON
Bachelor of Education - Science & Instrumental Music | University of Toronto
Master's Degree - Music Theory & Composition (ABD) | York University
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Music Performance | York University
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - Anthropology | University of Winnipeg
Bachelor of Science - Biology | University of Winnipeg

Additional Experience Highlights

Leadership & Communication:

- Hosted weekly company-wide technical presentations for over 200 team members
- Managed curriculum development teams and led teacher training workshops across multiple Canadian cities
- Coordinated cross-functional projects involving design, content, and development teams

Problem-Solving & Innovation:

- Developed automated systems for resource allocation and project assignment optimization
- Created data-driven solutions for team balancing and operational efficiency
- Built custom integrations between disparate systems and platforms

Mentorship & Teaching:

- Guided 50+ students through technical skill development and career transitions
- Led professional development workshops and training sessions
- Contributed to curriculum development and educational program enhancement