

Don Stevenson

416-909-0083 | dsteven1@gmail.com | donstevenson.dev | github.com/don-stevenson | Toronto, ON

SUMMARY

Senior Full Stack Developer with 6+ years of experience delivering complex web applications across enterprise, public-sector-adjacent, and product environments. Deep frontend specialization in React and Next.js with a strong focus on scalable CSS architecture, design system governance, and WCAG 2.1 accessibility — paired with solid full-stack fundamentals across Node.js, REST APIs, database design, and CI/CD. Experienced in managing and migrating legacy codebases, establishing component library standards, and collaborating closely with design and product teams to maintain cross-platform UI consistency at scale. Brings structured, methodology-driven thinking to every phase of delivery, from architecture and design review through to deployment, troubleshooting, and long-term maintenance.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frameworks & Libraries: React, Next.js, Gatsby; component architecture, hooks, performance optimization, SSR/SSG patterns

CSS & Styling Systems: Tailwind CSS (utility-first), modular CSS, CSS custom properties / design tokens, BEM methodology, responsive design, cross-platform UI consistency

Design Systems: Component library governance, design token authoring, reusable UI pattern documentation, legacy component migration and maintenance, Contentful CMS, Shopify Liquid theme architecture

Accessibility: WCAG 2.1 AA — semantic HTML, ARIA roles and attributes, keyboard navigation, screen reader testing, inclusive design practices

Design Tooling: Figma (design review, spec handoff, component alignment with engineering)

Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript (ES2022+), HTML5, CSS3, PHP, Java

Backend & APIs: Node.js, Express, REST API design, OAuth 2.0 / JWT, Swagger-UI / OpenAPI, Postman

Databases: MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL — schema design, migrations, query optimization

DevOps / CloudOps: Git, GitHub (PR templates, branching strategy, ruleset enforcement), CI/CD (GitHub Actions, Netlify), Docker basics

Testing & Quality: React Testing Library, Jest, Playwright E2E, Cucumber BDD

Methodologies: Agile / Scrum, sprint planning, design reviews, architecture reviews, technical mentorship, stakeholder presentations

EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Tech Lead — Full Stack Developer · Landseed

Oct 2025 – Present

- Own full end-to-end delivery on a live MERN-stack platform — establishing frontend architecture patterns, enforcing component reuse conventions, and ensuring consistent styling across the codebase through modular CSS practices and shared design conventions adopted by the whole team.
- Architected and shipped two major platform features — a real-time Socket.IO messaging service and a template-based contact-info-sharing system — driving requirements, design, implementation, and QA from start to finish with no dedicated PM, demonstrating structured end-to-end methodology at a senior level.
- Raised unit test coverage from 45% to 82% and introduced Playwright E2E tests, creating quality gates that catch UI regressions — including styling, layout, and accessibility issues — before they reach production.
- Enforced a structured Git branching model (develop / staging / production) with PR templates and ruleset guardrails, reducing merge conflicts by approximately 40% and creating a safe, auditable deployment pipeline.
- Mentored junior developers through code reviews and pairing sessions, actively coaching on component architecture, CSS organization, accessible markup, and design-system thinking — raising code quality across the team rather than just within individual PRs.
- Implemented API rate limiting and an AI-enhanced development strategy that improved team velocity without sacrificing long-term codebase maintainability.

- Present technical decisions and product progress to non-technical stakeholders in regular demos, maintaining alignment between engineering, design intent, and business goals throughout the delivery cycle.

Full Stack Agile Software Engineer · TribalScale

Dec 2021 – Jan 2025

- Built and maintained the React and TypeScript frontend for Ford USA and Ford Europe's fleet repair management system, establishing a shared component architecture and consistent styling system used across two international market deployments — with strict attention to cross-environment UI consistency and performance.
- Contributed to Manulife Canada's banking application frontend, applying React component patterns and achieving >90% test coverage on critical UI flows using React Testing Library and Cucumber — mirroring the rigour required on large, long-lived design systems.
- Built responsive, accessible driver, pharmacy, and task-management interfaces for ScriptRunner using React and Tailwind CSS, integrating Google Maps API and REST endpoints — delivering WCAG-compliant, mobile-first UI components with comprehensive test coverage.
- Migrated the company website from Gatsby to Next.js, integrated with Contentful CMS, establishing an SSR/SSG architecture, a content-managed component system, and a Netlify CI/CD pipeline — enabling the content team to self-publish while keeping the frontend codebase clean and governed.
- Maintained and extended legacy Gatsby components during the transition period, balancing feature work against technical debt reduction — a direct example of managing and improving legacy codebases at a senior level.
- Engineered a full-stack cryptocurrency trading platform (Ebox) with a Laravel/PHP backend and React and TypeScript frontend, demonstrating breadth across the full stack and adaptability across different architectural patterns.
- Hosted 50+ company-wide weekly demo sessions, clearly communicating design decisions and technical trade-offs to cross-functional audiences, including product and leadership — building the communication habits essential when bridging design and engineering.
- Mentored 4 co-op developers through structured code reviews and pairing, all of whom converted to full-time or contract roles.

Full Stack Developer · Harbourfront Centre

Apr 2021 – Sep 2021

- Led frontend development of harbourfrontcentre.com — a high-traffic, public-facing platform — using WordPress, PHP, HTML5, and CSS3, delivering an accessible, responsive site on schedule for a major public arts organization. This engagement represents direct experience in a public-sector-adjacent context with real governance and compliance expectations.
- Championed Git/GitHub best practices, automated testing, and CI/CD workflows across the team, and mentored developers on code quality and deployment standards.

Frontend Web Developer · Forward Thinking Psychological Services

Oct 2020 – Apr 2021

- Delivered UX improvements and design updates using HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript, collaborating with the business owner to translate design concepts into a clean, responsive, accessible interface — demonstrating the cross-functional Product + Design + Engineering collaboration this role requires.

Frontend Web Developer · Sebastian Knox Woodwind Services

Apr 2020 – Present

- Architected and maintained a Shopify e-commerce platform using Liquid templating and custom JavaScript, managing a distributed CSS system across many theme files; this is directly analogous to working with a legacy design system where styling is modular, fragmented, and must remain consistent at scale.
- Built custom component-level features, including bundled product UIs and custom navigation and cart designs, updating deprecated Liquid syntax (img_url to image_url, include to render) and ensuring responsive behaviour throughout; legacy codebase modernization work.
- Drove a 20% increase in sales through UX improvements and a 10% lift in average order value through custom feature development, demonstrating that disciplined frontend work translates directly to measurable product outcomes.
- Set up a GitHub CI/CD pipeline with automated unit and E2E testing, enabling safe collaboration across contributors and clean deployments.

Full Stack Developer Mentor & Project Evaluator · Lighthouse Labs *Mar 2021 – Dec 2021*

- Mentored bootcamp developers through HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Node.js, React, and databases — conducting structured code reviews and evaluating capstone projects, with the majority of mentees securing full-time roles.
 - Facilitated workshops on frontend best practices, including responsive design, semantic HTML, accessibility, version control, and deployment.
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PROJECTS

Soccer Team Balancer · Personal Project

- Designed and deployed a full-stack Next.js application with a custom team-balancing algorithm weighing player skill, gender, and position — used weekly by a live recreational league. End-to-end ownership: database schema, API layer, UI, and production deployment.
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EDUCATION

Web Development Boot Camp — Lighthouse Labs, Toronto

BEd, Science and Instrumental Music — University of Toronto

Master's, Music Theory and Composition (ABD) — York University

BFA, Music Performance — York University

BA(hons), Anthropology — University of Winnipeg

BSc, Biology — University of Winnipeg