

Blake Lawrence

Full-Stack Developer



LinkedIn



GitHub



Portfolio

PROFILE

I am a highly motivated Full Stack Developer with 4 months experience gained from the School of Code's 16 week intensive software developer bootcamp.

I get a great kick out seeing a front end come to life, I enjoy the attention to detail required when styling a web page and I thoroughly enjoy setting up the back-end to enable data transfer.

Prior to software development, my background was in live events where I helped bring to life my clients technical vision. The feedback I have received in my previous career and from my peers at the School of Code is something I'm very proud of and is a reflection of the hard work and dedication I put into all that I do.

EXPERIENCE

Software Developer (April 2022 - current)

School of Code

Overview

During my time at School of code, I worked in multiple teams with a variety of personalities and I enjoyed every minute of it.

The experience we gained in working as part of a team in an agile environment and of course, the amount of technology we learnt in such a short space of time is invaluable to me.

Project Cleanup - Final project (duration - 4 weeks)

My team and I built a full stack app to allow people to create or join litter cleaning events to aid the reduction of pollution in the places they love. Our solid team manifesto and teamwork experience put us all in a strong position to create something we were all incredibly proud of.

We agreed and pushed ourselves to work with technologies that we identified as popular in the industry and we made sure that each and every team member had equal exposure to all aspects of the project.

Key Contributions:

Although we all had involvement in every aspect of this project, my main contributions were towards:

- Leaflet Maps.
- Weather Widget.
- Weather tips modal.
- Toastify alerts
- function to convert unix time stamp into readable date format.
- Formik forms and yup validation.
- Tailwind styling and responsiveness.
- Scripts to create, drop, populate and reset database table.
- Backend routes and model functionality.

Project Takeaways:

A pivotal experience in my Software Development career, loved being part of an Agile team, achieving and exceeding our goals.

- Further experience gained in end-to-end testing with Cypress.
- Invaluable agile experience working in sprints, conducting and participating in regular stand-up meetings and retrospectives as well as playing the role of scrum master on a rotational basis.

GitHub repository: github.com/SchoolOfCode/environment_variables_frontend

Sourcery - Week 9 Project (duration 1 week)

School of Code

Overview

My team and I built a full stack app that enables students to post resources on topics covered in the course that other students may find useful to overcome blockers.

This week was full of pressure as we only had 1 day to plan, 3 days to build and 1 day to practice presentations but we managed to remain calm and come out the other end with a great app.

This week served as invaluable preparation for our final project as it was our first real taste of being thrown together in an unknown team to engineer a solution under pressure. It helped re-enforce the resilience that the school of code journey naturally instills.

Project Takeaways

- Cemented the fundamental concepts of React
- Gained further exposure to backend architecture and setup best practices
- An opportunity to experience and navigate through some of the frustrations and rewards when working with CSS.

Squatify - a weekend project collaboration

For weekends, I initiated a side project with 3 other students where we built an app called "Squatify" in order to cement and learn new concepts.

This helped us stay focused on weekends and we learnt further invaluable team work and dev skills.

We made friends for life by taking on this extra project and will continue to work on this in our free time.

GitHub repository: <https://github.com/BlakeLawrence/Squatify-App>

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Freelance AV Technician (March 2018 - September 2020)

Freelance Audio Visual Technician, setting up and operating technical equipment on Live productions.

Technical Events Manager (October 2013 - March 2018)

PSAV

Audio Visual Account manager responsible for Live productions from large conferences and AGM's to awards evenings and Gala dinners.

Responsibilities included but not limited to:

- Client account management
- Client meetings
- Line management
- Sales and Financial reporting
- Pre-production event planning

WHAT MAKES ME, ME!

The outdoors

I am a lover of the outdoors and the ocean, an avid spearfisherman and scuba diver.

Sports

I excelled at various sports at school and was a competitive swimmer throughout.

I believe the camaraderie that comes along with sport from a young age has instilled in me an ability to work and thrive in a team environment.

Music

I love music and I was once in a covers band called Mylar White in London from 2012 to 2014.

TOOLS

HTML

Node.js

CSS

Express.js

JavaScript

Jest

TypeScript

Git

React.js

PostgreSQL

OTHER TOOLS

- Next.js
- Auth0
- Netlify & Heroku
- Cypress
- TailwindCSS
- Postman
- Documentation

METHODOLOGIES

- Agile
- Pair programming
- Disney ideation
- Test Driven Development (TDD)
- Version control via GitHub

SOFT SKILLS

- Curious and motivated
- Self starter
- Quick learner
- Organised
- Management experience

COURSES

- Web developer bootcamp
Colt Steele
- Complete JavaScript
Janas Schmedtmann

EDUCATION

Full Stack Development

April 2022 - August 2022

School of Code
Birmingham, United Kingdom

HND Performing Arts Technology

2003 - 2006

Durban University of Technology
South Africa

Matric (A-Levels)

1997 - 2002

Glenwood High School
South Africa

Maths, Science, Geography
Biology, English, Afrikaans