

## DEREK MERCEDES

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[Website](#) | [Linkedin](#) | [Github](#) | [Blog](#)

### FULL-STACK SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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Versatile Full Stack Developer with expertise in JavaScript, TypeScript, React, and Python. Experienced in building responsive web applications, RESTful APIs, and leveraging cloud platforms such as AWS. Strong background in project management and team leadership, with a track record of successful freelance projects and customer-facing roles.

### TECHNICAL SKILLS

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<b>Front End</b>	JavaScript (ES6), TypeScript, React, Vue, Redux, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind, Bootstrap
<b>Back End</b>	Python, Java, Node.js, Express, MongoDB, SQL, PostgreSQL, RESTful API Development
<b>Testing/Deployment</b>	Jest, Mocha, Playwright, Firebase, Vercel, Google Cloud Platform, AWS, Docker
<b>Developer Tools</b>	Git, npm, VSCode, Agile Methodology, Bash, Windows Subsystem for Linux

### PROJECTS

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#### Ebb - Mental State Journal | [Github](#)

*Journaling app that tracks moods associated with entries and charts them over time.*

- Incorporated TailwindUI and TypeScript with React for journaling and navigation, visualizing trends with ChartJS
- Built a REST API to manage data for multiple users, entries, and mood trend information.
- Utilizing best practices, implemented user authentication in Python + Postgresql backend using JWT and Bcrypt

#### D&D Nearby: 5e Character Builder | [Github](#)

*Streamlines the process and automates the math required to make a character for D&D 5th Edition*

- Leverages the MERN (MongoDB, Express, React, Node) stack, with MantineUI for styling
- Converted data from over 35 rulebooks into a RESTful API, allowing efficient data fetching for the application
- Generates a printable PDF using the official character sheet, ready for play with no extra bookkeeping

#### Milestone Fitness | [Github](#)

*Leveraged AI to direct users towards milestones on the way to larger fitness goals and tracks their progress*

- Built database with Flask+SQLAlchemy, while implementing OAuth2 for user management.
- Constructed frontend with Javascript and React, routing with React-Router, and backend with Python
- Utilized ChatGPT 2.5 to respond to user goals with progression recommendations.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### Web Developer, Denver CO

##### *Freelance*

- Built RESTful APIs to interop with existing client codebases using Python.
- Extensive use of MERN (MongoDB, Express, Node, React) to rapidly build out e-commerce storefronts
- Assisted in migration to and from cloud providers (GCP, AWS) in larger projects
- Developed thorough documentation to facilitate maintenance after contract expiration
- Interfaced with common APIs (Stripe, Paypal, Google Maps) for development of custom web applications.

#### Gaslight Brasserie, Boston MA

##### *Service Manager, Private Event Lead*

- Trained over 70 staff members, with no turnover related to poor performance.
- Collaborated with vendors, decorators, and restaurant staff to provide exceptional experiences.
- Demonstrated exceptional communication and cross-discipline cooperation while managing a team of 20 servers.
- Developed training materials for initial hiring and seasonally rotating menu.

### EDUCATION

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#### Flatiron School (On-Campus), Denver, CO

##### *Full-Stack Web Development Bootcamp*

- Worked both individually and in teams, using Agile methodologies to develop full-stack web applications
- Built and deployed multiple responsive web applications using Node.js and Express
- Leveraged Python to expand personal backend mastery and gain foundational understanding of ML concepts.
- Utilized resources beyond course requirements to gain experience with cloud technologies (AWS, GCP)..

#### Full Sail University, Orlando, FL

##### *Bachelor of Science, graduated 2013*

- Created AI systems for NPCs using behavior trees and pathfinding algorithms
- Collaborated effectively in cross-functional teams of designers, artists, and programmers
- Led capstone project team in creating a fully-realized 3d puzzle-platforming game