

aji (chris) slater

software developer

✉ aji@doodlingdev.com 🌐 www.doodlingdev.com ☎ 415 867-4743 📍 Chicago, IL
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+ summary

Design-driven developer, mentor, and speaker who writes thoroughly tested and friendly to use front-end code. React specialist, shares knowledge and expertise to make efficient, effective react and react testing more attainable to the community. Vim aficionado, fan of the Oxford comma.

+ experience

Software Developer 20 Spokes

Chicago, IL
2018 to Current

- Used React Native for its speed-to-market and cross-platform qualities, developed mobile applications from the ground up for clients. Typically architect-ed as Ruby on Rails backed API services to support the client application.
- Embedded with software teams to develop and improve front-end React web applications. Often took the form of designing and implementing new features, large-scale refactoring or increasing and stabilizing test coverage.
- Wrote & published first application to the app store w/in first 4 weeks.

Software Developer UL, llc

Northbrook, IL
2016 to 2018

- The Digital Product Innovation team has a varied portfolio of applications under the UL software umbrella, including modern re-platforming of legacy engineering applications and multi-million dollar revenue generating customer-facing applications.
- As a front-end specialist, I facilitate code quality guidelines and style guides as well as their practical application, participate in high-level architecture creation of new projects, see to it that company-wide design and UI/UX standards are correctly implemented, maintain and oversee relevant component libraries, and mentor those developers on the team whose skills in our front end stack have not yet matured.
- As a new team in the UL structure, when I joined, many process guidelines did not yet exist. I was instrumental in bringing agile practices to the engineering process, as well as our collaborative efforts with business partners.

Teaching Assistant, Remote Learning Guide Dev Bootcamp

Chicago, IL
2016 to 2017

- The Dev Bootcamp program began with 9 weeks of remote learning (known as Phase 0) to build strong fundamentals in the languages and skills that will be utilized in the on-site intensive coursework.
- My role was to mentor and assist those who were newer to the programming craft through thorough code review and hour-long guided pair programming sessions led over video chat and collaborative software editors. Technologies covered included git, html5 & VSS, SQL, Ruby, and Javascript.

+ speaking

Commit message to the rescue! · Dev Together, Chicago

The humble commit message, so often overlooked and yet so powerful and always ready to lend a hand. More than just "commit -m" it's about context and documentation, and can save you boatloads of frustration and time when used to the fullest. <http://bit.ly/AjiCommitMessages>

How Open Source and the Chicago Cubs won the World Series · Windy City Rails, Chicago

A quick tour through the century-long community collaboration that has directly led to the data-driven revolution of America's pastime. <http://bit.ly/AjiWCR2017>

VIM as modern JavaScript IDE · Chicago Vim, Chicago

Useful plugins and techniques to make VIM as powerful as new-fangled IDEs for modern JavaScript development without losing any vim goodness.

+ volunteering

Dev Together · Mentor

Dev Together is a monthly event that connects people starting their development career with technical mentors through low-commitment, high-value, human interactions. Participated by acting as a mentor to an assigned early-career dev through code review, both written and in person, as well as pairing during the monthly sessions.

+ awards

Mark of Excellence · 2017 UL, llc

from UL.com - The UL Mark of Excellence Awards recognize UL colleagues who have achieved outstanding business results through the use of strategic consensus, solid business acumen, and a strong customer focus by achieving measurable results, utilizing good process, and demonstrating a continuous improvement mindset.

+ projects

Twenty Questions

React library to handle complex forms through simple JavaScript object schemas. Handles validations, input rendering and even nudges users towards good accessibility practices with required settings, defaults, and warnings.

<http://bit.ly/Aji-twenty-questions>

+ activities

Introduction to React Workshop

2019

Girl Develop It Chicago

Single day 8 hour session taking students through the concepts and metaphors of React by focusing on the reminder that "React is just JavaScript"