Laurence Roland James

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Profile

I am an enthusiastic Senior Front End Engineer with a passion for learning. I take pride in writing clean, quality code that is easy to understand and maintain, and promote similar practices amongst colleagues. I am a fan of BDD as a process for ensuring requirements are gathered accurately and met. I value TDD as a means of developing well structured, documented code. I particularly value writing tests for user behaviour over code implementation as this is what provides the confidence that the code does indeed work as it is supposed to. I am an excellent communicator and work well in teams. I am always looking for ways to improve quality and efficiency and have researched and introduced several workflows, practices and technologies to my teams with great success. I am comfortable and confident liaising with and presenting to clients. I can confidently solve complex problems in the web and mobile domain.

Key Technical Skills

JavaScript (ES6), React, React Native, Redux, Redux-Saga, Jest, React-Testing-Library, Cypress, Cucumber, Git / BitBucket, Bitbucket Pipelines, NPM, Agile development, BDD, TDD.

Experience

Senior Front End Engineer at Connected Space (August 2016 - present)
Senior as of January 2018

Responsible for researching, architecting and implementing front end technical solutions for web and mobile apps. Responsible for mentoring and managing developers, setting up and documenting workflows and liaising with and presenting to clients.

Recent accomplishments:

- Researched, implemented and shared across the team a **TDD workflow** for React and React Native apps using React Testing Library which drastically improved **code quality and maintainability.**
- Set up **Continuous Integration** with Bitbucket Pipelines to run Eslint, Prettier, Flow, Jest and Cypress tests, with Cypress end to end tests running in parallel for increased efficiency. Slack channel notified on Pipeline completion. The setup significantly **increased code confidence** and **reduced manual testing.**
- Researched, implemented and shared across the team a **BDD workflow** that spanned the development process from the capturing of requirements to delivery. Requirements are captured in feature files using Gherkin syntax, with end to end tests run against the scenarios using a Cucumber preprocessor for Cypress. The workflow **ensures requirements are accurately met** and are **well tested.**
- **Led front end technical team** on a client project, a web questionnaire with bespoke animations. Implemented the core app structure, questionnaire schema structure, data flow and key features. Kicked off shared components and presentational layer before delegating. The project was **delivered to a highly satisfied client** who has become **a repeat customer.**
- **Led front end technical team** on a client project, a web app for trading energy commodities using Interbit Blockchain technology. Converted XML schemas to JSON schemas to drive the app data and to validate XML files that users would upload. **Invited to NY for the CoinDesk Hackathon 2018 by the client**, where myself and a colleague built an app using Interbit, and **I presented the app to a large audience.**
- Set up a **Component Library** based on Material UI for use across multiple web projects. Components exported using Babel with **code splitting used to minimise bundle size.**
- Researched **functional programming techniques** and introduced them to the team. We focus on immutability and the use of pure functions and higher order functions for **clean and reusable code.**
- Researched and set up a boilerplate redux app structure using feature first organisation, with eslint and prettier tests run in a pre-commit hook. The boilerplate structure is used across all of our front end projects which makes switching between projects seamlessly **efficient**.

Web Developer at DK (November 2014 - August 2016)

Responsible for delivering and demoing features for various web projects related to education and travel in an Agile environment.

Duties:

- Using Javascript (ES6), React, Redux, Redux-Thunk, React-Intl, WebPack and SCSS written with BEM to develop user authorisation and internationalisation features for a language learning web app.
- Using MVC architecture to develop features for education and travel apps using BackboneJS.
- Using jQuery**,** SCSS and Handlebars templates to animate and create interactive UIs.
- Ensuring that UIs are responsive**,** accessible and performant across browsers and platforms.
- Using Git and BitBucket to manage version control and development workflows.
- Using Brunch to bundle builds.
- Managing dependencies with NPM.
- Working with designers to deliver features with the best visual design and UX.
- Demoing features to stakeholders.

Web Developer immersive course at General Assembly (August 2014 - October 2014)

Learned and used all manner of web development technologies including Ruby, Rails, Javascript, jQuery, AJAX, AngularJS, SQL, HTML, HAML, CSS, SASS. Learned and used Agile Development techniques, Git and Github. Learned and applied Object Oriented Programming concepts, REST, MVC and Test Driven Development. Built three projects, one as a group.

Wandsworth Council, Learning Support Assistant (January 2010 – August 2014)

Responsible for the learning of Primary School children with Special Educational Needs.

Professional Poker Player (August 2007 – January 2010)

Applied strategies to maintain a consistent win rate in a variety of game types.

Education

- City University - Advanced JavaScript for Web Sites and Web Applications
  March 2015 - May 2015 (10 weeks, part time)

- General Assembly – Web Developer Immersive
  August 2014 - October 2014 (12 weeks, full time)

- The University of Sheffield - BA, Philosophy
  2004 - 2007 (3 years)

- The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance - Diploma, Popular Music Performance
  2003 - 2004 (1 year)