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Brighton and Hove

Hands-on frontend engineer able to assist in full-stack projects, has lead a team but thrives as an individual contributor. Loves CSS, TypeScript and web standards. Agile learner with a curiousness toward innovative problem solving.

10+ years React experience but framework agnostic; wants to use the platform where possible.

Speaks design language from previous background and loves creating great user experience. Web accessibility and automated testing.

See <https://github.com/MattyBalaam/matthew-balaam.co.uk> for the code behind this CV.

Technologies

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|--------------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|
| • HTML | • CSS | • Github CI | • Remix 2 |
| • TypeScript | • Node | • Playwright, Vitest | • Vite |
| • React 19 | • AWS | • React Router 7 | • And many more... |

Experience

2021 – Current Lead UI Engineer Shieldpay	<p>Hands-on code-focused technical lead for the UI stack managing and mentoring in a “chapter” of 4 inside larger cross-functional team. React Router 7 (Remix) SSR apps deployed to AWS infrastructure built using accessible (WCAG 2.1 AAA) component library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • React Router 7 SSR apps using shared platform hosted on Node functions in AWS Lambda calling microservices via REST API. • Themeable component library built using a mix of bespoke code and headless UI packages with a focus on web accessibility (WCAG 2.1 AAA) and performance. • Diagnosed and mitigated performance issues in relating to AWS IaC reducing app latency up to 10 times. • Successfully rolled out RBAC permissions for apps. • Introduced Zod-based schemas for forms, closing the contract circle with the backend to reduce potential for data or API errors. • Ensured timely delivery of new features pragmatically across the UI team balancing delivery and quality demands. • Migrated simulated component tests in Jest to browser-based Playwright tests with features like a mocked API layer using MSW for quick test development and easy DX. • Introduced visual snapshot testing for confidence against regressions across multiple browsers and automated web accessibility testing.
2018 – 2021 Software developer Pure360	Building a React/Redux/Typescript SPA interfacing with the API layer using REST for handling customer creation and scheduling of multi-channel marketing campaigns. Migrated to Tanstack React Query for data fetching and state management. Working in an Agile/Scrum environment.
2018 – 2018 JavaScript engineer Simplr	Building features on two React SPAs in the corporate intranet sector. An established product using React and Redux and a greenfield product using React with Apollo/GraphQL.
2017 – 2018 Software developer Filmstro	Building cross-platform adaptive-music desktop app Filmstro Pro: A React/Redux app inside Electron using a lower-level audio binary.
2013 – 2017 Front-end developer New Era Education Ltd.	Developed websites and e-learning courses for the education sector.
2009 – 2013 Developer and designer Freelance	Providing web design and development services to a variety of clients.
2001 – 2009 Graphic designer Newsquest Media	Design conception through to final artworking on a very broad range of print and digital projects. Working in a collaborative design team. Liaising with all departments, as well as external clients and printers.
1997 – 2001 Artworker Archant Media	Print and some digital work using applications including Illustrator, Photoshop, Fireworks and QuarkXPress in a time-critical daily newspaper work environment.

Education

1993 – 1996 Southampton Solent	The practical half of this degree covered web design, television and radio production, desktop publishing, journalism and photography. These creative practices were informed by studying strands of critical theory with an emphasis on how these can assist the creative process.
BA (Hons) Media and Cultural Studies	