Michael Innella

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❖ Full-stack software engineer with experience building performant, scalable web applications and intuitive user interfaces. Proficient in JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Next.js, Node.js, Express, and PostgreSQL.
❖ Experienced in developing responsive, data-driven front-end applications, designing and maintaining RESTful APIs, and deploying full-stack systems to production using Vercel, Render, and Supabase. Strong focus on performance optimization, clean architecture, and maintainable code.
❖ Skilled in authentication and authorization, role-based access control, accessibility best practices, and modern UI/UX implementation. Committed to building reliable, user-focused software that delivers long-term value.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & CORE COMPETENCIES

Front-End Development
- HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript
- React, Next.js
- Responsive design, accessibility (WCAG), UI/UX best practices

Back-End Development
- Node.js, Express
- RESTful API design and implementation
- Authentication and authorization (role-based access control)

Databases
- PostgreSQL
- MongoDB
- Data modeling and query optimization

DevOps & Deployment
- Vercel, Render, Supabase
- Environment configuration and deployment workflows
- Version control with Git and GitHub

Software Engineering Practices
- Performance optimization Clean, maintainable architecture
- Debugging and testing fundamentals

Professional Skills
- Clear technical communication
- Cross-functional collaboration
- Analytical problem-solving
- Project ownership and time management

CERTIFICATIONS

Databricks Academy Accreditation - Generative AI Fundamentals   *June/2025*

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Software Engineer | Howard Motor Corp — Automotive Service Business   *2025 – Present*
Full-Stack Web Application
- Designed and developed a production web application using **Next.js**, **JavaScript**, and **Tailwind CSS** to modernize the company's online presence and improve customer lead intake.
- Implemented backend functionality with **Firebase**, including authentication, database integration, and secure data handling for customer inquiries and internal workflows.
- Integrated **Google APIs** (Maps / Places) to enhance location accuracy, business visibility, and user experience.
- Built responsive, mobile-first UI components focused on clarity, accessibility, and fast load times.
- Deployed and maintained the application in a production environment, managing environment variables, builds, and updates.
- Collaborated directly with the business owner to translate operational requirements into technical solutions, iterating quickly based on real-world feedback.

Key Achievements
- Delivered a fully functional, client-facing production system used by a real automotive business.
- Replaced manual or fragmented workflows with a centralized, web-based solution.
- Improved site performance, usability, and reliability compared to the legacy site.

Live Link
- Howard Motor Corp Website: https://howardmotorco.net/

Frontend Engineer (Remote) | [Skinstric.AI](#) (Contract)   *2/2024 – 04/2025*
- Developed reusable React components styled with Tailwind CSS and ShadCN/UI to support a scalable, design-consistent frontend.
- Delivered a real-time skin analysis platform using Next.js 14 and the OpenAI Vision API.
- Improved page load performance and analysis response times using Next.js Server Components, animations, and Vercel Edge Functions.
- Designed and implemented efficient state management with Redux Toolkit and Zustand, reducing unnecessary re-renders and improving UI responsiveness.
- Built modular, scalable component libraries following Atomic Design and Progressive Enhancement principles.
- Implemented WCAG 2.1 accessibility standards and validated core flows using Lighthouse and Axe-core.
- Collaborated within an Agile, cross-functional team through daily stand-ups and sprint cycles to deliver features under tight deadlines.

Frontend Engineering Intern (Remote)   *01/2023 – 01/2024*
NFTverse
- Assisted in designing and implementing user interfaces for an NFT marketplace using React and Next.js.
- Built responsive layouts, search functionality, and filtering features to improve usability across large collections.
- Developed reusable UI components with React, Next.js, and Tailwind CSS, improving mobile accessibility.
- Implemented dynamic lists, search, and filtering logic to reduce page interaction latency.
- Collaborated with designers and senior engineers in Agile sprints, participating in code reviews and stand-ups.
- Improved code reliability by writing unit tests with Jest and React Testing Library.

PROJECTS

Howard Motor Corp – Full-Stack Business Website (Next.js, Tailwind, EmailJS, Firebase)
E.g. Designed and developed a production web application for an automotive service business using Next.js and Tailwind CSS, with Firebase handling authentication, data storage, and secure customer inquiries. Integrated Google Maps/Places APIs and deployed a responsive, mobile-first interface used for real-world lead capture.

TuneIn – Focus & Music Web App (React, Javascript, YouTube API)
E.g. Built a music-focused productivity web application designed to support focused work sessions. Implemented custom audio controls, clean UI flows, and client-side state management using React and modern browser APIs.

GameHub – Video Game Discovery App (React, RAWG API)
E.g. Developed a React single-page application for discovering video games using the RAWG API. Implemented browsing with pagination, sorting, and rating filters, dynamic game detail pages, and robust loading and error states. Built a responsive UI with Material UI and a custom dark theme, and deployed the app to Vercel.

MI Website Rebuild – Full-Stack Web Application (Next.js, Express, Supabase, OpenAI)
E.g. Built a full-stack web application with a Next.js frontend and an Express API backend, integrating Supabase PostgreSQL for data storage and OpenAI for an AI-powered assistant. Implemented a streaming chat system that delivers token-by-token responses using a trimmed RAG context and caching for fast perceived performance. Deployed the frontend to Vercel and the backend to Render, managing environment configuration, CORS, SEO metadata, and production-ready deployment workflows.

PantryPilot – Recipe Explorer (JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Node.js, Express, TheMeal API)
E.g. Developed a multi-page recipe exploration application using vanilla JavaScript, semantic HTML, and custom CSS, with a lightweight Node.js and Express backend acting as a proxy to the MealDB API. Implemented live search, category filtering, sorting, and random recipe discovery, with query-driven navigation and reusable UI components. Built a responsive, mobile-friendly layout using custom CSS layered with Bootstrap utilities, and designed clean data flow between frontend views and backend API routes.

EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth U. & Institute of Data | Certified Software Engineering Professional (CSEP)   *March 2026*
- Software Development
- API Development and Integration
- Javascript Programming
- Front End Development
- Back End and Full Stack Development
- Interactive Web Design
- Web Design with React

Frontend Simplified Institute | Certificate of Graduation   *August 2025*
- Advanced JavaScript Concepts
- React and Component-Based Architecture
- Modern HTML & CSS
- Responsive and Accessible UI Development
- Frontend Projects
- Performance and Best Practices