

Benjamin Eric Holt

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Salt Lake City, UT
thorulfr.github.io/portfolio/

Full-stack web developer transitioning from the world of comparative and historical linguistics, network analysis, and academic research. Ever eager to expand mastery of languages – programming languages included. Logic-oriented with a knack for quick and thorough knowledge acquisition, intuitive problem-solving, and effective communication. Passionate for professional and elegant design, enticing user experiences, and mobile-first MERN development.

Technical Skills

Languages: CSS3, HTML5, JavaScript (ES6+), SQL

Technologies: Express.js, Git, Handlebars, jQuery, MongoDB, MySQL, Node.js, NoSQL, React, SASS/SCSS, Sequelize

Other: Bootstrap, Bulma, Heroku, Responsive Design, Progressive Web Apps, Tailwind CSS, Unit Testing, Webpack

Projects

Type++ | <https://github.com/Thorulfr/type-plus-plus> | <https://typeplusplus.herokuapp.com/>

- **Summary:** Competitive and social MERN-stack type-racing app that allows users to test typing speeds, earn badges, and compare scores with friends and global competitors
- **Tech:** JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Tailwind CSS, JWT, React Router, Webpack, GraphQL, Photoshop, Illustrator
- Designed user interface/site layout across all responsive breakpoints using React and Tailwind CSS
- Collaborated remotely with a team of 4 developers to integrate back-end and middleware with front-end
- Spearheaded documentation efforts, resulting in legible, clean code across Git branches and into deployment
- Integrated collaborative planning and tracking tools (including Trello and Slack) to maintain productivity

Number One Fan | <https://github.com/Thorulfr/no1fan> | <https://no1fan.herokuapp.com/>

- **Summary:** One-stop shop to help users discover new music, preview and save favorite artists and albums, find band- and area-specific concerts, and track and catalogue shows attended
- **Tech:** JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Tailwind CSS, SQL/Sequelize, Handlebars, Express, BCrypt
- Researched, implemented, tested, and debugged individual and cross-API calls to aggregate multiple data streams into a centralized, organized hub
- Planned and implemented SQL database for concert-storage functionality
- Led team-wide design discussions and married multiple UX ideologies into a unified site-wide experience
- Participated in entire development cycle, from planning/wireframing to coding, deploying, and presenting

Streamability | <https://github.com/Thorulfr/streamability> | <https://streamability.herokuapp.com/>

- **Summary:** Streaming aggregator that lists title availability across numerous streaming platforms and allows users to construct a cross-platform queue whilst also providing taste-based streaming recommendations
- **Tech:** JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Bulma, The Movie Database + Taste Dive APIs
- Prototyped and tested numerous CSS and design libraries to provide crisp and engaging user experience
- Developed modern, elegant, and smooth UI (including multiple user-selectable color-schemes)
- Crafted client-side storage solution for streaming watch queue
- Ensured high-quality, reader-friendly code through comments, descriptive commits, and thorough code review

Professional Experience

Knowledge Database and Communications Manager

March 2020 – January 2022

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

- Designed and implemented comprehensive internal knowledge and policy database, resulting in greater agent efficiency and performance in both contact and processing centers
- Maintained content health and optimized content usability, findability, and reliability of 500+ org-wide documents and 2000+ org-wide communications templates for a reliable and uniform customer experience
- Collaborated with org-wide business units to overhaul 25+ years' worth of existing legacy content to meet modern knowledge requirements

Asset Management Team Lead

May 2019 – February 2020

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

- Liaised between UHEAA and over 25 loan guarantors to facilitate loan claims, transfers, returns, and repurchases
- Managed, directed, trained, and assisted a team of 12 asset management agents with a wide variety of responsibilities governing a multi-billion-dollar portfolio
- Worked with internal and external compliance teams to both maintain adherence to federal and local regulations and ensure accuracy and precision
- Led 3 internal team-building, cross-training, and coordination committees

Education

Certificate – Full-Stack Web Development

September 2021 – March 2022

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

- A 24 week-intensive program focused on Bootstrap, CSS3, Express.js, Git, Github, Heroku, HTML5, JavaScript, jQuery, MongoDB, MySQL, Node.js, React, SEO, Responsive Design, API/JSON, RESTful APIs, State Management, Command Line, Database Theory, Agile Methodologies, Quality Assurance Testing, Social Coding Best Practices, and Computer Science Fundamentals.

Master of Arts – Viking and Medieval Norse Studies

August 2015 – October 2017

University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

- A union of network analysis and comparative historical linguistics providing insight into the emergence of distinct Scandinavian languages throughout the Viking and Medieval Eras. Thesis entitled *Building Runic Networks – A Digital Investigation of Dialects in the East Norse Runic Corpus*; final grade of 9.05 (First Class with Distinction).

Bachelor of Arts – German Literature

August 2007 – April 2014

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA

- A broad-spectrum integration of German literary, cultural, and linguistics emphases through the ages. Includes 2 years of teaching university-level language courses to over 75 students. Capstone entitled *Neo-alchemy and Mechanism in E.T.A. Hoffmann's Der Sandmann*. Minor in Scandinavian studies; major GPA of 3.87, minor GPA of 4.00.