

Zachary Howell

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Frontend Engineer with 5+ years of experience specializing in building high-performance, visually engaging web applications using **React** and **TypeScript**. Expert in crafting responsive, pixel-perfect user interfaces with **TailwindCSS** and modern CSS architectures. Proven track record of transforming complex requirements into scalable frontend components and seamless user experiences. Strong collaborator with deep expertise in state management, RESTful API integration, and performance optimization in agile environments.

EXPERIENCE

- Freelance Software Engineer, Remote** 11/2025 – Present | New Berlin, Wisconsin
- **Kettle Moraine Professional Cleaners (Web Application)**
 - Architected a modern, high-interactivity service platform using **React**, **TypeScript**, and **GSAP** to showcase restorative cleaning results.
 - Developed a custom "Before & After" interactive reveal component using **GSAP Draggable and Clip-Path**, providing a tactile way for users to visualize service value.
 - Leveraged **GSAP ScrollTrigger** to implement sophisticated UI entrance animations and smooth-scrolling transitions, enhancing the brand's professional digital presence.
 - Utilized **TailwindCSS** for a utility-first styling approach, ensuring a fully responsive layout and consistent design system across all device breakpoints.
- Upper Crust Pizza (Web Application)**
- Engineered a high-performance, mobile-first web application using **React**, **TailwindCSS**, and **Vite**, replacing a legacy system with a modern architecture.
 - Achieved **100/100 scores across all Lighthouse audits** (Performance, Accessibility, SEO) through aggressive image optimization, code splitting, and asset minification.
 - Redesigned the digital menu and user interface to prioritize intuitive navigation and pixel-perfect UI components, resulting in improved user engagement.
 - Managed the end-to-end deployment lifecycle, including domain registration and Netlify CI/CD pipeline configuration.
- Founder & Lead Full-Stack Developer, Claw and Decay Clothing** 01/2024 – Present | New Berlin, WI
- Architected a scalable e-commerce frontend using **React** and **Vite**, implementing a custom component library with **TailwindCSS** to ensure a consistent, branded design system.
 - Engineered complex state management for cart logic and product filtering, utilizing React hooks and Context API to ensure a seamless, lag-free user experience.
 - Optimized mobile-first interfaces and modern UI patterns, resulting in a responsive platform that maintains high performance across all device types and browsers.
 - Integrated third-party RESTful APIs (Stripe, Printify) for secure payment processing and automated fulfillment, handling asynchronous data flows and error boundaries.
 - Implemented SEO best practices including semantic HTML, meta-tag optimization, and XML sitemaps, significantly increasing organic search visibility and indexing.
 - Managed CI/CD pipelines via Netlify, utilizing environment-based secret management and automated deployments to ensure high platform reliability and 99.9% uptime.
- Software Engineer (Frontend & Integrations), North American Fulfillment** 08/2021 – 08/2025 | Brookfield, WI
- Developed and optimized client-facing dashboards using **Angular** and **JavaScript**, focusing on improving UI responsiveness and resolving complex frontend performance bottlenecks.
 - Collaborated cross-functionally as the primary technical lead for 60+ client accounts, translating business requirements into technical UI/UX workflows and data-driven interfaces.
 - Engineered data-rich user interfaces to visualize complex information from **RESTful APIs** and **AWS S3**, ensuring high system reliability and real-time data accuracy for end-users.
 - Diagnosed and resolved critical integration issues, including API failures and UI data inconsistencies, ensuring seamless communication between frontend systems and backend services.
 - Led technical onboarding for SaaS clients, configuring custom workflows and ensuring production-ready interfaces that met diverse stakeholder requirements.
 - Managed secure environment configurations and cloud-based infrastructure, ensuring that high-traffic web applications remained accessible and performant.

EDUCATION

- Full Stack Web Development Bootcamp Certificate, UWM Extended Campus** Online
- 24-week intensive program focused on MERN stack, modern JavaScript, and backend development.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frontend

React (Hooks, Context API), **TypeScript**, **TailwindCSS**, **GSAP**, Angular, JavaScript (ES6+), HTML5, CSS3, Vite.

Tools & State

Redux, Git, GitHub, Postman, Netlify, Chrome DevTools, **Lighthouse Audit**, Google Secrets Manager.

Backend & Cloud

Node.js, Express.js, Firebase Functions, REST APIs, GraphQL, AWS S3, Python, Java

Databases

Firebase Firestore, MongoDB, MySQL

Integrations

Stripe, Printify, 3rd-party API workflows, SFTP automation.