Brett Dorrans

Principal-level Frontend Engineer with over 15 years of experience designing, scaling, and modernising mission-critical SaaS platforms. I specialise in defining React and TypeScript architectures that balance durability, accessibility, and developer velocity across multi-product ecosystems in regulated fintech, enterprise, and product-led organisations. My work bridges technical precision with tangible business outcomes, ensuring reliability at scale without sacrificing innovation or speed.

I drive long-term frontend strategy, design system evolution, and governance frameworks that align engineering, product, and design around shared principles of performance and inclusivity. My leadership focuses on measurable gains in developer experience, maintainability, and system resilience: building cultures where accessibility, performance, and observability are embedded into everyday engineering practice.

Selected Achievements

- Defined and delivered frontend architecture strategies for regulated SaaS products, aligning React frameworks, API layers, and design-system foundations across multiple product lines.
- Established multi-team design system governance that improved delivery speed by around 40% while strengthening accessibility and reliability standards.
- Led performance and testing initiatives that reduced regression risk and increased release confidence across complex product pipelines.
- Created and maintain DTIF (dtif.lapidist.net), an open-source design token ecosystem used to standardise token exchange and theming across platforms.

Experience

Senior Software Engineer, Encompass Corporation – Glasgow, UK (hybrid)   05/2024 – 08/2025

- Owned the React and TypeScript platform strategy for a regulated KYC/AML SaaS suite, codifying robust architecture patterns that accelerated delivery across multiple teams.
- Defined and governed an organisation-wide design system architecture with Storybook, preserving multi-product consistency and enforcing WCAG AA+ compliance.
- Standardised linting, automated testing and CI/CD guardrails to institutionalise release quality and substantially reduce rework.
- Partnered with product and design leadership to align roadmap priorities with customer experience outcomes and measurable business metrics.
- Co-led hiring and planning to build and sustain a strong frontend engineering culture.

Senior Software Engineer, LendInvest – London, UK (remote)   04/2021 – 11/2023

- Directed a comprehensive design system modernisation programme that reduced UI build time and unified product experiences across diverse lending journeys.
- Led the migration of the React estate to TypeScript and modularised shared libraries, strengthening system reliability and accelerating onboarding.
- Championed performance budgets, lazy loading and asset optimisation techniques to significantly improve loan application responsiveness.
- Authored governance standards for accessibility, testing and release quality that were adopted company-wide across engineering.
- Mentored staff and senior engineers, seeding frontend leadership skills throughout the organisation.

Software Consultant (contract), Golden Charter – Glasgow, UK (remote)   02/2020 – 04/2021

- Led the complete rebuild of customer-facing funeral planning tools, elevating accessibility, trust and user confidence in a highly regulated sector.
- Institutionalised a reusable component library and design system, driving visual and functional consistency across multiple digital products.
- Standardised CI pipelines, end-to-end testing and automated release orchestration to dramatically boost delivery cadence and quality.
- Modernised critical C# applications and APIs to improve performance and ensure long-term maintainability.
- Mentored engineers on accessibility and frontend craftsmanship, strengthening cross-team practices and standards.

Team Lead (Front End), Markup – Glasgow, UK (hybrid)   01/2018 – 12/2019

- Launched a full-stack multi-product platform that increased ecommerce conversion rates by more than 35% through optimised checkout journeys and payment integrations.
- Led and mentored the frontend team, orchestrating agile delivery and capability growth within a fast-paced startup context.
- Defined and scaled a comprehensive component library and design system that dramatically improved development velocity and visual consistency.

Skills

Frontend Architecture
Advanced React, Next.js and Vue architectural patterns

Component governance and modular design that scales

Design token architecture and management

Micro-frontend integration and orchestration

Languages & Tooling
TypeScript · JavaScript

Node.js for scalable services

Storybook · Vite · Webpack pipelines

GraphQL · REST API contracts

Testing & Quality
Jest · React Testing Library

Playwright for end-to-end testing

Contract and visual regression tests

DevOps & Backend
GitHub Actions · GitLab CI automation

Azure DevOps · Jenkins pipelines

Docker · AWS edge deployments

Accessibility & Standards
WCAG AA/AAA governance

Inclusive design audits and remediation

Performance budgets and optimisation

Leadership & Collaboration
Technical strategy and vision

Organisation-wide mentoring and team growth

Stakeholder alignment and communication

Education
Edinburgh College of Art
BA (Hons) in Illustration
2007 – 2011

References
Available upon request.

Contact
hello@lapidist.net
github.com/bylapidist

- Optimised checkout flows and reduced cart abandonment in close partnership with product and growth teams.
- Represented the company in international client meetings, articulating roadmap, technical strategy and architectural choices to stakeholders.

Developer, Everyone – Glasgow, UK   11/2016 – 12/2017

- Developed a social platform integrating profiles, job boards, ecommerce storefronts, payment processing and back-office tooling.
- Defined and scaled a cross-platform mobile app that delivered a seamless experience across a wide range of devices.

Senior Digital Designer, Ibiza Digital Media – Glasgow, UK   10/2014 – 09/2016

- Defined and scaled an online publishing platform, attracting and retaining over 85K monthly active users through thoughtful design and performance.