



Brett Dorrans

Lead Frontend Engineer with 15+ years in web development and deep domain experience in design systems, fintech platforms, and SaaS product architecture. I lead teams that ship scalable, accessible, and performant frontends. I drive measurable improvements to developer velocity, system resilience, team culture, and user experience.

Experienced in embedding frontend into orgs of all sizes, scaling design systems, and establishing DX standards from scratch. Passionate about designing systems that enable teams, not just users. Remote-first since 2018; I thrive in asynchronous, autonomous, cross-functional environments.

Experience

Senior Software Engineer, Encompass Corporation – Glasgow, UK (remote) 2024 – Today

- Reduced frontend delivery time by establishing a modern React + TypeScript architecture, enabling rapid onboarding and feature velocity for a greenfield SaaS product in regulated KYC/AML workflows.
- Drove adoption of a new design system by architecting and rolling out an accessible, scalable, token-based component library documented in Storybook, supporting multi-product consistency and WCAG AA+ compliance.
- Eliminated frontend tech debt from day one by defining engineering standards, introducing linting, testing (Jest, React Testing Library, Playwright), and CI/CD pipelines.
- Identified org-level resource gaps and guided hiring plans to build a sustainable frontend capability.
- Built cross-functional rituals (design critiques, prototyping sessions, frontend–UX reviews) to embed frontend into product and design decision-making.

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

- Cut UI development time by 75% by leading the build and rollout of a company-wide design system adopted across multiple products in this leading mortgage fintech.
- Improved system resilience and developer onboarding through a successful migration to TypeScript, reducing runtime errors and enhancing confidence in code changes.
- Boosted loan application performance by 60% by introducing lazy loading, route-based splitting, and asset optimisation strategies.
- Strengthened accessibility compliance by introducing linting rules, test coverage, and WCAG AA/AAA tooling into the CI pipeline.
- Championed developer experience and frontend culture through mentoring, code review standards, and advocating best practices.

Freelance Consultant (Occasional Contracts), Fintech, Ecommerce & SaaS – (remote) 2013 – Today

- Saved clients months of technical debt through audits and rewrites of brittle component libraries, replacing them with modular, testable systems.
- Increased test coverage to >90% on key UI systems for clients struggling with maintainability and product confidence.
- Enabled scaling from MVP to team-ready architecture by standardising patterns for state, data fetching, testing, and deployment.

Frontend Engineer & Team Lead, Golden Charter, Markup, Everyone – Glasgow, UK 2013 – 2021

- Led frontend rebuild of customer-facing funeral planning tools at Golden Charter, enhancing UX and accessibility for a highly regulated sector.
- Launched a full-stack multi-product platform in a startup context (Markup), improving ecommerce conversion rates by over 35% via checkout optimisation and seamless payment gateway integrations.
- Scaled an online publishing platform to 85K+ monthly active users by modernising performance, implementing responsive design, and launching custom CMS tools.

Expertise

- Frontend Architecture
- Technical Leadership
- Design System Strategy
- Accessibility (WCAG AA/AAA)
- Cross-Functional Collaboration
- Culture Building
- Developer Tooling

Stack

Languages

JavaScript, TypeScript

Frameworks

React, Next.js, Vue

Styling

SCSS, CSS Modules, Styled Components, Tailwind

Testing

Jest, React Testing Library, Playwright

Tooling

Storybook, Vite, Webpack, React Query, tRPC

Backend

Node, Express, REST, GraphQL, SQL/NoSQL, PHP, Java

CI/CD

GitHub Actions, Gitlab CI, Azure Devops, Jenkins

Devops

Docker, AWS

Education

Edinburgh College of Art

BA (Hons) in Illustration
2007 – 2011

References

Available upon request.

Contact

hello@lapidist.net
github.com/brettdorrans
github.com/bylapidist