Ben Howdle
Developer

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Background

I am a full-stack developer that has been working with a large variety of companies from startups to global corporations since 2009.

I have been successfully freelancing since 2014 using a variety of JavaScript frameworks and libraries. My strengths lie in Node.js for back-end work, as well as React and Vue for front-end work. I have also built native apps using Objective-C, and more recently, React Native for cross-platform applications.

Clients

Since going freelance, I've helped a wide variety of companies with their development needs:

- Soho House
- Cisco
- Plasso
- KashFlow
- Lost My Name
- Kayako

Key clients include:

Soho House, *London/remote -* https://www.sohohouse.com/

Spent 7 months assisting the digital team launch a new site for their partner hotel https://www.thened.com. Alongside this, worked on internal development tools for the team, including a CLI Vue project scaffolder to keep all Soho House projects consistent.

Cisco, *San Jose CA/remote -* https://www.cisco.com/

Spent 15 months architecting and building a React front-end, which communicated to a Python API (developed internally by their engineers). This front-end communicated over WebSockets, so was essentially a real-time client.

I wrote up the technical details in this post: https://medium.com/@benhowdle/creating-a-real-time-test-automation-platform-for-cisco-with-react-websockets-and-react-native-7e0f735bcecf

Cisco subsequently requested some of my time at the end of 2017/start of 2018 to implement an automated testing framework for the project I'd built previously, and to train their QA's on creating and managing tests. I used Cypress to achieve this (https://www.cypress.io/). I also developed the React application further, by prototyping and beginning the port over to a complementary React Native app, which would be continued and picked up by the existing engineering team. This was built on Redux.

Plasso, *San Diego CA/remote - https://plasso.com/*

Worked with Plasso on their e-commerce platform for 6 months, mostly in Node.js on the backend. We used GraphQL and Relay (part of Facebook's open source stack) to interface between the backend Node data layer and front-end React.

Kayako, *London/remote - https://www.kayako.com/*

Worked on a new version of the Kayako front-end. Advised the existing team to begin building an API, and to separate out the front-end from the backend logic, which they've continued with this approach since. This front-end was before React was released, so I used Backbone.js.

Featured Projects

Ekko - *https://ekko.site/*

My own personal side project. The platform uses both backend Node.js and front-end React, and makes heavy use of the Facebook API.

I wrote up the technical details in this post: https://blog.ekko.site/under-the-hood-5bd0fa6602e8

Plot - *http://plotapp.io/*

An iOS app I worked on with a designer friend. I wrote the backend Node.js API and the iOS client (Objective-C) and all the web share pages in Node.js (using templating, not React).

Readme App - *https://readmeapp.stream/*

A Node.js API I put together to communicate with the Twitter API and authentication for the Vue.js front-end (also written by myself).