Callum Macrae

Creative / Front-end Developer, London UK

A developer with experience in both front-end and back-end development, primarily using TypeScript. Always looking for the next challenging problem to solve and next thing to learn. Cares about making the internet available for all: be that people with disabilities, or those with older devices and slow connections.

Work

Risk Ledger, Lead Software Engineer
March 2023 to present

Joined as the company's first lead-level engineer to transform the front-end of their TPRM product from a fairly immature platform built by mostly mid-level engineers with minimal front-end / framework experience into a platform which could carry the business into the future. This has also involved upskilling the team accordingly, and introducing processes to level up engineering culture at the company. That's half my role - the other half is contributing to the ongoing product work being delivered by the team.

Contracting
Jan 2020 to March 2023

Moved to contracting in order to gain a greater breadth of experience vs my previous relatively long employments, and also to take on some more creative projects. Worked with both big and small clients (some listed below), using tech including Vue.js, React, TypeScript, GSAP, 2D Canvas, Three.js, D3.js, Highcharts, Tailwind, Ionic 6, GraphQL, Cypress, Jest, and Vitest.

Hex Digital (contract)
June 2022 to Oct 2022

Worked with Hex to build the initial MVP of an early-stage startup, from the first few lines of code through to the launch of the MVP. Was mostly building the front-end, a mobile app powered by Ionic and Vue, but also worked on the backend a bit, a Laravel app. Did some infra work too, setting up the deploy of a microservice to aws lambda.

Attest (contract)
Dec 2021 to June 2022

Worked on a few different projects with Attest on the results and visualisation side of their platform, enabling end users to gain insights from their surveys. Was a mixture of client-facing product work and improving existing architecture to consolidate slightly fragmented features and enable new features in the future. In addition to front-end development, also did a bit of product/UX design and animation design.

Economist Impact: Signal Noise (contract)
Sep 2021 to Nov 2021

Worked on two projects in this contract, the main of which was a Next.js (React) site visualising sustainability survey data using visx and containing animations powered by Lottie. Also did some data visualisation design/prototyping using plain SVG within React.

Department for Education (contract)
Jan 2021 to July 2021

Another longer contract, working as a front-end developer on a Ruby on Rails project. Being a government project it had a really heavy emphasis on accessibility and usability, and it was really interesting to go back to working on a traditional server-generated website for a bit.

RVU (contract)
Jan 2020 to June 2020

Spent six months working with the teams at RVU working on money.co.uk and Uswitch, primarily working on their cross-team, multi-brand component library and the platform that powered parts of money.co.uk and Uswitch with data from Contentful.

SamKnows, Lead Front-end Developer   Aug 2018 to Jan 2020
Senior Front-end Developer   Aug 2016 to Aug 2018

Worked on a number of websites written using Vue.js or vanilla JavaScript. Main site was SamKnows One, their core analytics platform, which made me really grow a love for data visualisation! Also worked on several versions of the main company website, a web-based speed test (it's an interesting problem to solve in the browser!), and a platform we used to make marketing sites for government clients powered by Prismic and a component library.

Wonderbly, Developer   June 2014 to July 2016

Wore a number of hats here: spent time focusing on and growing a passion for both performance and accessibility, and also spent a couple months writing Ruby. Spent the last six months of my time there helping rewrite parts of website using React and Node.

Funding Options, Front-end Developer   Mar 2014 to June 2014

Worked on two projects; a small app using AngularJS and a little PHP; and a Wordpress template, using the Timber plugin to avoid the worst bits of Wordpress templating.

Part-time Freelance Development   June 2011 to Mar 2014

Started taking on small projects in June 2011 while still in education, starting with PHP development, and shifting to more front-end and JavaScript work.

Education   **City University London**   2013 to 2014

Studied Computer Science for a year and a half before deciding it wasn't the most efficient way of learning for me, and leaving. Studied Java, systems architecture, data structures and algorithms, lots of UML, and something resembling web development.

Writing   I've always found writing a great way to learn, and have written two books published by O'Reilly Media, the latest of which was Vue.js: Up and Running. I've also written a number of articles for websites such as Smashing Magazine, DZone and JSMag (my favourite of which was Building with Gulp), and my own website, http://macr.ae/.

Talks   I'm an accomplished speaker, having been invited to speak at conferences around the world such as Vue.js Amsterdam, Vue.js Toronto, and Vue.js Poland. You can find a mostly-complete list of my previous and future talks on my website.

Hobbies   I play drums (usually jazz) and occasionally dabble with other instruments. I'm an activist with a focus on intersectional climate justice.

I'm sometimes sporty, but not as sporty as I was when I tried—and failed!—to cycle the 1000 miles from Lands' End to John O'Groats in six days. These days I mostly climb and run.

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