

Derek Johnston

Senior Software Developer

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Professional Experience

Full Stack Engineer | Mobile Engineer, JSD

2023 Oct – present

Technologies: NextJS, React, NuxtJS, VueJS, Flutter, React Native, and Ruby on Rails.

- **Who's Jimmy Project:** Revising and upgrading the tech stack for the 'Who's Jimmy' project, enhancing its functionality and performance. Planning to add a new section featuring teaching videos that showcase James Gawley's extensive experience in the film industry, highlighting his expertise and craftsmanship.
- **Frontend UI/UX Enhancement Project:** Collaborated with team to enhance frontend UI/UX of an existing web application using ReactJS and Tailwind CSS, resulting in improved user engagement metrics.
- **Mobile-First Web App Prototype Development:** Built a mobile-first web application prototype using NextJS, showcasing key features and functionalities within a tight deadline.
- **Responsive Web Design Optimization Sprint:** Optimized responsive design of client's website using Bootstrap and CSS Grid, ensuring consistent user experience across desktop and mobile devices.
- **Nuxt 2 to Nuxt 3 Upgrade Project:** Upgraded client's web app from Nuxt 2 to Nuxt 3, leveraging Vue 3 Composition API, optimizing SSR performance, and integrating TypeScript.
- **Additional Projects:** Developed tailored e-commerce platforms, mobile applications, and customized software solutions, effectively enhancing clients' online footprint and operational efficiencies.

Senior Full-stack Developer, YHP

2021 May – 2023 Oct | Montreal, Quebec

Technologies: NextJS, ReactJS, Redux, TypeScript, NodeJS, GatsbyJS, JavaScript, WordPress, Symfony, Docker, Azure, AWS, Postman, ClickUp, Bitbucket, Playfab, PlayFabXR, Tailwind, Bootstrap

- Implemented agile methodologies to accelerate the delivery of high-quality software, enhancing project efficiency, fostering a culture of continuous improvement through regular sprint reviews and retrospectives, and enabling agile adaptation to evolving client requirements.
- Mentored junior developers and conducted thorough code reviews, fostering skill development and ensuring adherence to best practices in software development and project management.
- Created a collaborative and innovative environment, steering the team toward achieving ambitious goals, which resulted in robust and versatile projects that added significant value to the company.
- Led comprehensive staff performance reviews, managed full-cycle recruitment, and facilitated smooth employee transitions, thereby maintaining team morale and continuity.
- Developed and maintained various game websites using diverse technology stacks to enhance functionality and user experience, while also creating dynamic and responsive admin controllers. These contributions supported operational efficiency across multiple projects and teams within the organization.
- **Main Product Wonderlab:** As the lead developer for Wonderlab, I spearheaded the white-labeling of the event platform, significantly reducing the setup costs for new live events. This strategic move allowed clients to customize the platform to their specific branding and event needs without incurring extensive development costs, making our solution both cost-effective and highly adaptable.

I directed multiple cross-functional teams to develop a suite of gamified SaaS products, including:

- **HR Onboarding System:** Led the creation of an engaging and interactive HR onboarding system designed to streamline the employee induction process. This system incorporated gamified elements to enhance user engagement and retention, ensuring new hires had a memorable and effective onboarding experience.

- **Comprehensive Event Platform:** Developed a versatile event platform supporting online and in-person events. Features included real-time chat, live streaming, and virtual networking rooms, allowing seamless transitions between virtual and physical event components, and catering to various event types and sizes.
- **Administrative Hub Application:** Oversaw the development of an administrative hub that served as the control center for all event management activities. This application offered real-time analytics, user management, and content control features, empowering administrators to efficiently manage events and make data-driven decisions. The admin hub was designed with a user-friendly interface, ensuring even those with minimal technical expertise could navigate and utilize its full capabilities.

Freelance Developer, JSD

2019 Dec – 2021 May

Technologies: Postman, Jira, Bootstrap, Tailwind, Yarn, Git, CSS, SCSS, SQLite, RoomDB, PHP, NuxtJS, VueJS, ReactJS, NodeJS, JavaScript, Swift, Java, Flutter (Dart)

- **NDA:** Created a Java Android application to replace an existing Cordova app for a shipping company. This improved performance and reliability, seamlessly integrating with the existing backend to enhance operational efficiency.
- **Tackle Hunger:** Developed a map component to display food banks and their needs across North America, providing a critical tool for resource allocation and community support.
- **Who's Jimmy:** Ongoing development of a professional portfolio for a skilled film craftsman and clock-smith using VueJS/NuxtJS and PHP, effectively showcasing his work and enhancing his professional visibility.
- **Additional Projects:** Delivered tailored e-commerce websites, mobile apps, and custom software solutions, significantly enhancing clients' digital presence and operational capabilities.

Software Developer, E-Data Now!

2018 Apr – 2019 Sep | Oshawa, Ontario

Technologies: Postman, Sentry, Ruby on Rails, Scout, Jira, Bootstrap, Yarn, Git, CSS, SCSS, HTML, SQL Server, PowerShell, Pester, Cypress, PostgreSQL, Gatling, NuxtJS, VueJS, JavaScript, Scout, Swift, Flutter (Dart)

- Developed frontend and backend code for a near real-time data collection system for inspection and auditing in the automotive industry.
- Maintained test plans and test cases, wrote automated and load tests.
- Enhanced dashboard functionality, added rearrangeable/drag and drop capabilities, and improved accessibility to meet Canadian standards.
- Created Gatling scripts to simulate heavy real-world load, led performance improvement initiatives, and optimized slow API calls using Scout APM.
- Resolved issues in iOS and Flutter codebases, improving performance and UX.
- Secured a field placement, demonstrating exceptional performance that led to an offer for full-time employment.

Volunteer Experience

Technical Discussion and Event Lead, Virtual Coffee

2023 Mar – present

Education

Computer Programming Analyst (3yr Advanced Diploma), Durham College

2018 | Oshawa, Ontario

Final Project:

- Lead Developer for a mobile communication application using Xamarin, targeting verbally limited individuals.