

Donavon West



Developer Advocate / React Engineer
New York City or remote



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// About

A solid technology brand ambassador and community builder, Donavon moved a 170-year-old company with zero “tech cred” into a top tech hiring destination. Well-connected in the NYC React / JavaScript community, he's built a vibrant community meetup in the span of a few months.

// Professional

[American Express](#)
Developer Relations
April 2018 – Nov 2019

- Created the position of Developer Relations for Amex Technology
- Worked with Recruiting to attract top engineering talent
- Directed many thousands of prospective hires to the careers site
- Managing Editor and principle author for the Technology Blog at [americanexpress.io](#) publishing articles on React, Kotlin, and more
- In 2018 wrote the #1 SEO article for “React best practices”
- Gave technical presentations at conventions and meetups
- Evangelized Amex Technology through Twitter and LinkedIn
- Elevated Amex onto the [hired.com](#) list of NYC Top 10 Tech Brands

[American Express](#)
Engineering Director
Nov 2016 - April 2018

- Led two full stack scrum teams of 7 people each supporting the logged-in experience for the highest trafficked website at Amex
- Evangelized coding best practices and lead the internal React Communities of Technical Practice (CTP)
- Worked with Product team to determine and execute backlog features

[Barnes & Noble College](#)
Acting CTO
Engineering Director
Oct 2011 - Nov 2016

- Led the entire 120-person engineering organization as acting CTO
- Oversaw 25 people covering all aspects of front-end client development for iOS, Android, Mac, Windows, and SPA web as Director of Engineering
- Co-led the leadership team defining enterprise processes and guidelines
- Worked with Project, Product, and Design teams to define product vision

[Barnes & Noble](#)
Engineering Manager
Oct 2009 - Nov 2011

- Advanced from individual contributor, to lead for a 10-person team, to engineering manager
- Wrote the Windows and Mac desktop eReader for the Nook platform

Etcetera

Extremely Digital, Owner, Nov 1995 – Oct 2009
WordPerfect Corp, Director, Aug 1992 – Nov 1995
MagicSoft, Owner, Aug 1988 – Aug 1992
USRobotics, Developer, Oct 1984 – Aug 1988

// Community

[useReactNYC](#)
Organizer
April 2019 - Present

- Principal organizer for a New York City React meetup at [useReact.NYC](#)
- Uses contacts in the React community to solicit top industry speakers
- Work with local companies to host events
- Foster diversity and inclusion in the React community

Open Source

Writes and maintains several OSS packages on [github.com/donavon](#)

Publications

Wrote most popular article for the American Express [Technology Blog](#)
[freeCodeCamp](#) "Top Contributor for 2018" award winner
Contributing author Hacker Noon
Over 2000 views/month on [medium.com/@donavon](#)