Donald Westland
Front End, Full Stack and AI Developer
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Professional Summary

Results-oriented Full-stack and AI Developer proficient in modern technologies including React, Next.js, JavaScript, Python, and AI frameworks (RAG, LLM, OpenAI API). Demonstrated ability to architect and build high-performance web applications and innovative AI solutions. Seeking to leverage expertise in front end, full-stack, and AI development to contribute to impactful projects.

Skills

Front End: Next.js 15 (Server Actions & App Router), TypeScript, React (Functional Hooks & Classes), React Native, JavaScript, Redux (Redux-Toolkit, Saga), React Query, Jest, RegEx, HTML, SCSS
Backend: Node, Express, SSR, Python (Django, Flask), Nginx, Authentication, Database Administration (Postgres, MySQL, SQLite, MongoDB), SQL Scripting, ORMs (Prisma, Pg, Sequelize, Mongoose), PM2, bash scripting
DevOps: Docker, AWS, EC2, RDS, S3, CloudFront, Cloudflare, Linux security & administration
Team: Team Lead, Jira, Gitflow, Scrum, Agile, code reviews

AI Skills: Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) with Large Language Model (LLM). Cursor, GitHub Copilot, OpenAI API, Advanced Prompt Engineering, Vector Databases (Pinecone, ChromaDB), LangChain, Python, Jupyter Notebook, Colab

Experience

AI & Full-Stack Engineering & Consulting   Jun 2024 to Present
Marina del Rey, CA

- Developed AI service platforms using React and Python, building an AI content detection system for teachers to identify AI-authored writing and automated content solutions.
- Enhanced SEO-optimized advertising platforms, enhancing user engagement and ad revenue through strategic SEO and database-driven chatbots.

- Developed a chatbot widget with database-driven pre-prompting to augment LLM queries for website integration.
- Built secure AI applications with robust authentication, scalable databases (PostgreSQL, SQLite), and OpenAI API integration for content verification and automated systems.
- Launched an automated AI newsletter featuring scraped news articles, AI-generated images, and website publishing.
- Architected RAG systems utilizing vector databases (ChromaDB, Pinecone) to improve LLM accuracy and real-time relevance via database-augmented queries.
- Founded and led 'Learn AI LA', fostering AI literacy and community knowledge sharing.

Technologies used: LLMs, RAG, LangChain, OpenAI API, Vector Databases (ChromaDB, Pinecone), Advanced Prompt Engineering, React, Next.js, next-auth, Python, Postgres, SQLite

Senior Developer   Oct 2023 to Jun 2024
Cognizant (DirecTV), El Segundo, CA

- Led front-end Next.js development for enterprise solutions within Agile, serving millions of DirecTV users.
- Collaborated with global offshore teams to resolve critical performance and scalability bottlenecks.
- Led team developing strategies for dynamic API retrieval with authentication, rate limiting, data transformation for data security and access.
- Optimized server-side rendering (SSR) for client support pages, significantly improving SEO and page load performance.

Technologies used: React, TypeScript, Next.js, Redux-Toolkit, Material UI, JavaScript, AWS, Jenkins, CodeCloud, REST, Jest, SEO

Front End Developer   Oct 2017 to May 2023
Internet Brands - WebMD, El Segundo, CA

- Developed HIPAA-compliant telemedicine applications using microservices for secure physician-patient communication and intuitive medical dashboards.
- Spearheaded front-end re-architecture of a major medical application (greenfield project), enhancing features, maintainability, scalability, and performance.
- Modernized legacy front-end codebases by transitioning to functional React components, improving code maintainability and developer velocity.
- Architected and implemented a unified front-end platform (Next.js hybrid, Tailwind CSS) across 7 medical brands, standardizing UX and streamlining development.

- Mentored junior developers and championed code reviews, elevating code quality and team collaboration.
- Utilized Postgres and SQL expertise to automate email templates and implement SQL automation processes, improving operational efficiency.

Technologies Used: React, Next.js, Redux, Tailwind CSS, SQL, JavaScript, CoffeeScript, Postgres, REST, GraphQL, Webpack, GitLab, Jest, Docker.

Developer   Aug 2015 to Oct 2017
IRS Express LLC, Beverly Hills, CA

- Led full-stack development of a legal services application for IRS debt reduction, encompassing front-end and back-end functionalities.
- Engineered a Python/Django algorithmic engine for dynamic tax strategy calculation based on taxpayer demographics and expenses.
- Implemented automated IRS PDF form generation, streamlining the tax filing process and ensuring compliance.
- Developed marketing websites for IRS Express and legal services using WordPress and AngularJS, including UI design and graphic assets.

Technologies used: Python (Django, Flask), Postgres, AWS, (EC2, RDS, S3), PHP, Angular, JavaScript, jQuery, Gulp, Wordpress, Premiere Pro, Photoshop

Education

Santa Monica College / AA Business Administration