

Donald Westland

Front End, Full Stack and AI Developer

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

don@westland.net 310-721-7442

Project Site: <https://www.DonWestland.com>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/donwestland/>

GitHub: <https://github.com/dwestland>

Profesional Summary

Results-driven Full-stack and AI Developer proficient in Next.js 15, React, Python, and cutting-edge AI technologies including RAG, LLM, and OpenAI API. Proven ability to architect and implement high-performance web applications and AI-driven solutions. Eager to leverage expertise in front-end, full-stack, and AI development to contribute to innovative projects.

Skills

Front End: Next.js 15 with Server Actions & App Router, TypeScript, React Hooks & Classes, React Native, JavaScript, Redux, Redux-Toolkit, Saga, React Query, RegEx, HTML, SCSS DevOps: Docker, AWS, EC2, RDS, S3, CloudFront, Linux security & administration

Backend: Node, Express, SSR, Python (Django, Flask), Nginx, Authentication, Database Administration (Postgres, MySQL, SQL, SQLite, MongoDB) ORMs (Prisma, Pg, Sequelize, Mongoose), PM2, bash scripting, Jest

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 Database (Pinecone, ChromaDB), LangChain, Python, Jupyter Notebook, Colab

Experience

AI & Full-Stack Engineering & Consulting

Jun 2024 to Present

Marina del Rey, CA

- Built robust platforms of AI-driven services, applying expertise in React, Next.js, Python and OpenAI API.
- Engineered high-performance, SEO-optimized content platforms, resulting in increased advertising revenue through strategic SEO implementation.
- Created innovative applications with advanced AI features, including robust authentication, scalable database management, and OpenAI API integration to enhance user engagement and application functionality.

- Architected and implemented Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems to improve LLM output accuracy and real-time relevance, utilizing vector databases (ChromaDB, Pinecone).
- Proficient in Large Language Model (LLM) application development using LangChain, including advanced prompt engineering for OpenAI GPT-4 API.
- Founded and lead 'Learn AI LA', an educational meetup in Los Angeles, fostering AI literacy and community knowledge sharing.

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

Senior Developer

Oct 2023 to Jun 2024

Cognizant (DirecTV), El Segundo, CA

- Next.js Front-End Leadership for Enterprise Solutions: Led front-end development initiatives using Next.js within an Agile environment to build and scale complex software solutions for DirecTV, serving millions of users.
- Global Collaboration for Performance Optimization: Collaborated effectively with distributed offshore development teams to identify and resolve critical performance bottlenecks and scalability limitations within the development environment.
- SEO & Performance Enhancement via Server-Side Rendering: Optimized server-side rendering (SSR) strategies for client support pages, significantly improving SEO rankings 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

- HIPAA-Compliant Telemedicine Application Development: Developed secure, HIPAA-compliant telemedicine applications utilizing microservices architecture to facilitate seamless physician-patient communication and create intuitive medical dashboards, enhancing patient care and operational efficiency.
- Greenfield Front-End Re-architecture for Major Application: Primary front end developer for the complete front-end re-architecture of a major medical application as a greenfield project over 18 months, resulting in a more feature rich, maintainable, scalable, and performant platform.
- Legacy Code Modernization with React & Functional Components: Developer on the modernization of legacy front-end codebases by strategically transitioning from class-based to functional React components, improving code maintainability and developer velocity.

- Unified Front-End Platform Implementation across 7 Medical Brands: Architected implemented a unified front-end platform using a hybrid version of Next.js and Tailwind CSS, standardizing the user experience across approximately 7 diverse medical companies within Internet Brands, streamlining development and design processes.
- Mentorship & Code Quality Advocacy: Served as a key mentor to junior developers and proactively participated in code reviews, raising overall code quality and fostering a collaborative team environment.
- Database Automation and SQL Expertise: Demonstrated strong database skills with Postgres, including writing complex SQL scripts for automated email templates and implementing SQL automation processes, improving operational efficiency and data accuracy.

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

- Full-Stack Development of Tax Strategy & Legal Services Application: Led the full-stack development of a legal services application for IRS debt reduction, encompassing both front-end and back-end functionalities to provide taxpayers with strategic guidance.
- Algorithmic Tax Strategy Calculation Engine: Engineered a Python-based algorithmic engine using Django to dynamically calculate personalized tax negotiation strategies based on taxpayer demographics and allowable expenses, automating complex financial analysis.
- Automated IRS Form Generation in PDF Format: Implemented automated generation of completed IRS PDF forms for accurate submission, streamlining the tax filing process for users and ensuring compliance.
- Developed marketing websites to promote IRS Express and other legal services using Wordpress and Angular JS. Performed UI design and produced graphic assists.

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