

# Donald Westland

## Front End, Full Stack and AI Developer

Marina del Rey, CA

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

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

## 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

- Explored and developed AI startup concepts, focusing on innovative applications of LLM technologies and full-stack implementation.
- Modernized myBeachCams.com with database-driven architecture and automated backend, reducing manual operations from hours to minutes. Increased website traffic by 40% using modern SEO techniques.

- Prototyped AI content detection systems for educational use cases, incorporating LLM-based analysis to detect various types of AI generated content.
- Engineered a chatbot system with SQL-based knowledge augmentation, implementing strategic pre-prompting to deliver personalized, accurate responses based on client data.
- Created RAG architectures using vector databases (ChromaDB, Pinecone) to improve context-aware AI responses. Published online LangChain application using Python and FastAPI.
- Built proof-of-concept AI newsletter system combining automated content aggregation, image generation, and publishing workflows.
- Founded 'Learn AI LA' community initiative to facilitate knowledge sharing and AI technology adoption.
- Worked with partners on startup ventures, applying AI-driven automation and optimization strategies. Self-funded projects for several months, staying at the forefront of AI innovation. Now seeking a role to apply my new advanced AI and full-stack skills.

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

## Senior Developer

**Oct 2023 to Jun 2024**

Cognizant (DirecTV), El Segundo, CA

- Architected and led development of enterprise-scale Next.js applications serving millions of DirecTV users, implementing advanced SSR optimization techniques that reduced page load times by 30%.
- Designed and implemented a distributed API gateway system to route traffic between legacy services and modern microservices, enabling seamless migration of customer support infrastructure.
- Engineered a comprehensive API middleware layer incorporating rate limiting and data transformation pipelines to enforce security protocols across the enterprise platform.
- Spearheaded adoption of TypeScript and established code quality standards, resulting in 60% reduction in production bugs and improved developer velocity.
- Led cross-functional teams across multiple time zones to resolve critical performance bottlenecks, implementing caching strategies and performance monitoring that improved system reliability.

**Technologies used:** React, TypeScript, Next.js, Redux-Toolkit, Material UI, JavaScript, TypeScript, 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, Node (Express & Fastify) Next.js, Redux, Tailwind CSS, SQL, JavaScript, SASS, 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