

Franklin Henderson

CONTACT

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SKILLS

💻 JavaScript, TypeScript, React
🔧 HTML, CSS
📦 Node.js, npm, Vite
🔗 GraphQL, REST APIs
🤖 Claude, Gemini, Copilot, MCP
{} Python, Go
🗄️ PostgreSQL, MySQL, NoSQL
🔄 TDD, Agile
🐙 GitHub, GitLab, CI/CD
☸️ AWS, Docker

LEADERSHIP

👥 Team Building, Hiring
🎓 Mentoring
📋 Technical Strategy
🗺️ Roadmap Planning
👤 Cross-functional
🤝 Collaboration
★ Performance Management

COMMUNITY

👤 WLVS Co-Organizer
👤 Lunch.js Champion
👤 JS.LA Member

INTERESTS

📷 Film Photography
✈️ Travel
🎧 Music
🍷 Brewing

Principal Engineer with 20+ years building and scaling software systems across fintech, gaming, and advertising technology. Currently leading frontend architecture and team development at Tilia, where I build React/GraphQL interfaces to a system that processes millions in virtual economy transactions.

Combine deep technical expertise in modern frontend technologies with proven leadership experience, having grown engineering teams from solo contributors to high-performing units. Passionate about maintainable architecture, test-driven development, and mentoring engineers while maintaining hands-on contribution to complex technical challenges. Value close collaboration with users and stakeholders to build tools that truly serve their needs.

EXPERIENCE

Principal Engineer / Team Lead

Tilia / Linden Lab / Thunes

San Francisco, CA (remote) 2019 - Present

Architected and delivered complete React-based administrative platform replacement as founding frontend engineer, transforming legacy Angular application into mission-critical multi-tenant interface serving both internal agents managing \$millions in payouts/refunds/KYC and external customer support teams for self-service user administration

Designed and implemented GraphQL abstraction layer aggregating multiple backend REST services and databases, creating unified transaction-based data model that simplified complex invoicing, wallet, and payment operations for improved user experience and operational efficiency

Scaled from solo frontend engineer to technical leader of 4-person team, establishing engineering standards, mentoring practices, and development workflows while maintaining ownership of critical architecture decisions and technical direction

Built customer-facing embeddable widget handling TOS compliance, KYC workflows, and payment processing, then successfully transitioned ownership to dedicated team while maintaining architectural oversight and knowledge transfer

Progressive Engineering Leadership

CJ Affiliate

Westlake Village, CA Jan 2014 - 2019

SENIOR MANAGER OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (FEB 2018 - 2019)

Progressed from individual contributor to managing 40+ engineers across multiple teams, establishing department-wide standards for agile development, release planning, and technical excellence while maintaining hands-on technical contributions

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER / TEAM LEAD / CHAPTER LEAD (JAN 2015 - FEB 2018)

Led modernization of flagship frontend application from legacy JavaScript to ES6/React, introducing modern build pipeline (npm, Gulp, Webpack) and establishing React as department-standard technology, influencing architectural decisions across entire engineering organization

Delivered high-performance publisher compliance testing system capable of 500,000 tests/day under tight deadlines for at-risk client, scaling from rough prototype to production system while mentoring junior team members

Built company-wide agile project management tool on Atlassian Jira providing data-driven progress insights, and created mobile SDK for iOS/Android event tracking with full App Store publication and developer portal

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER (JAN 2014 - JAN 2015)

Prototyped customer-facing insights application featured at 2016 CJU Solutions Lounge, directly supporting sales and product strategy while establishing frontend chapter leadership role managing department-wide developer standards and training

Principal Developer

Demand Magic

Thousand Oaks, CA Apr 2012 - Jan 2014

Built next-generation display advertising platform implementing complex rulesets across multiple ad networks, user attributes, and geographic targeting

Developed ETL data migration tools and real-time reporting dashboard for KPIs, impression statistics, and revenue tracking using Node.js, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, and AWS

Principal Developer

TrueCar

Santa Monica, CA Sep 2011 - Apr 2012

Founded Internal Applications team to modernize legacy financial systems, leading hiring and technical direction for enterprise application consolidation

Led Microsoft Dynamics GP upgrade and migration across 15+ client installations while building web-based portal for financial applications using ASP.NET MVC and MSSQL

Progressive Technical Leadership (1997-2011)

Development Manager / Technical Lead *Pocket Kings, Dublin, IE / Los Angeles, CA 2005-2011*

Led engineering teams and agile transformation, .NET/C#/MSSQL systems

Senior Software Engineer *Movielink, Santa Monica, CA 2002-2005*

Enterprise Java applications, ATG Dynamo, Oracle data warehouse systems

Software Engineer *Day Software, Orange County, CA 2001-2002*

Java enterprise integrations, content management systems

Software Engineer *Post Communications / Netcentives, San Francisco, CA 1999-2001*

High-throughput email systems, Java/JavaScript, unit testing advocacy

Software Engineer / Technical Lead *ModaCAD / Styleclick.com, Los Angeles, CA 1997-1999*

Early web development, JavaScript/CSS, team leadership, e-commerce prototyping