AKI GAO

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Profile

I am a Software Engineer with expertise in UX/UI, Front End, Digital Accessibility (WCAG 2.1/WAI-ARIA) with a passion for creating products that democratize society and empower people. I believe in the power of leveraging user-centric, compassionate, and data informed design based on first-principles to drive product and engineering practices. My areas of professional interest include the Web, front end architecture, and engineering productivity/leadership. I offer professional experience in software development using the JavaScript ecosystem, functional programming paradigms and test-driven design in Agile environments, including remote experience working cross-functionally between international times zones.

Work Experience

User1st - Software Engineer, Remote   February 2021 - Present

- Resolve critical customer client issues including problems with layout & responsivity, data formating, and localization for Check1st, an automated web accessibility assessment SaaS platform. Fixes led to the retention of a multi-million dollar enterprise client on the platform.
- Coordinate directly with enterprise stakeholders to analyze requirements and communicate customer feature requests and issues to product owner.
- Lead instruction for accessibility training with 20+ hours of content covering a range of topics including accessibility standards & principles, assistive technologies and best practices for developing and testing accessible software.
- Provide technical support to enterprise customers, including a major wireless network operator and a domestic passenger rail road service, as well as engineering support to sales.

User1st - *Solutions Integrator*, Washington, D.C./Remote   January 2020 - February 2021

- Remediated websites to comply with accessibility standards using User1st's uRemediate, a software platform that corrects accessibility issues, for 20+ clients, including a major wireless network operator and a Fortune 500 healthcare provider.
- Audited client websites and mobile applications for compliance with the WCAG 2.1 AA standard and Section 508 guidelines and American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) with assistive technologies such as JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver and Talkback.
- Created internal tooling to automate tasks & improve productivity including:
  - A command-line tool built with Node.js & Puppeteer to automate website URL discovery and auto-generate web page screenshots to reduce time estimations by 33% and improve accuracy by 50% for client websites.
  - A cross-browser extension built with the WebExtension browser API to inject User1st's uRemediate runtime environment for client sites during accessibility remediation to replace unreliable tooling in 95% of use cases.

Skills

Languages:
JavaScript, TypeScript, Shell (Bash)

Development and Testing Tools:
Git, NPM, Yarn, Webpack, Babel, Mocha, Jest, ESlint

UX/UI & Front End Technologies:
Balsamiq, Figma, Sketch, HTML, CSS, React, Redux, Emotion, Slack Block Kit, Cypress

Back End & Cloud Technologies:
Node.js, Express, Slack Admin API/Bolt SDK, PostgreSQL, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS

Education

The University of Virginia: School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS)   August 2016

- B.S. Computer Engineering & B.S. Electrical Engineering