Ivan Hilkov

Lead Frontend Engineer — Moscow, Russia

Contact Information

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Professional Summary

Results-driven Lead Frontend Engineer with 17+ years of experience delivering scalable React/Next.js applications and data-intensive web solutions for streaming and geospatial domains. Proven track record in team leadership (up to 8 engineers), performance optimization, and end-to-end product delivery from MVP to production scale. Specialized expertise in video streaming platforms and geospatial applications with demonstrated success in reducing system latency by 40% and improving release stability by 80%. Strong background in building high-performance teams, implementing robust CI/CD processes, and driving technical architecture decisions for product-focused startups leveraging AI technologies.

Key Achievements

- **Performance Optimization**: Reduced API latency by 40% handling 700,000 requests per second during peak traffic events at leading video streaming platform
- **Rapid Delivery**: Delivered geospatial platform MVP in 3 months, securing 1st place at Gazprom "Unmanned Biathlon" and 10+ enterprise contracts worth $1M+ annually
- **Technical Innovation**: Implemented resumable uploads up to 100 GB with pause/resume support using tus.io protocol
- **Team Leadership**: Successfully led cross-functional teams of up to 8 engineers with structured mentoring and career progression programs

Professional Experience

Bot Garden — Founder — *Jun 2025 — Present*

AI-powered Telegram bot platform startup

- Achieved rapid domain expertise in Telegram Bot API and LLM integration, building 4 AI-powered bot prototypes in 2 months
- Successfully integrated multiple LLM providers (GPT, Perplexity, Claude) demonstrating ability to quickly master emerging AI technologies
- Built comprehensive suite: echo bot (hello-bot), GPT-powered Q&A bot (hello-ai-bot), English writing assistant (english-teacher-bot)
- Developed shared runtime and orchestration platform (botgarden-core) with automated deployment via GitHub Actions
- Integrated WATA.pro payment system and established CI/CD pipeline for rapid iteration and deployment

START — Lead Frontend Engineer — *Jan 2023 — May 2024*

Leading Russian video streaming platform serving 5M+ users with Smart TV and web content delivery

- Optimized application performance to handle 700,000 requests per second during peak traffic events, reducing API P95 latency by 40% through query pattern optimization and caching strategies
- Built and shipped Next.js features including "Movies on TV" and "TV Series" sections with integrated player and TV channel storefront
- Developed TV programming section with schedules and catch-up TV functionality, improving user engagement and content discovery
- Refactored monolithic payment system into modular Redux components, reducing codebase by 50% and improving maintainability for subscription workflows
- Implemented custom A/B testing library reducing experiment development time by 30%, enabling faster iteration on user experience improvements
- Led and mentored team of 4 frontend engineers, establishing technical standards and conducting architecture reviews

Tvigle — Lead Frontend Engineer — *May 2024 — Oct 2024*

Online cinema platform

- Enhanced video player capabilities with advanced ad SDK integrations (Yandex Ads, VK Ads) via MRAID protocol
- Upgraded ad serving infrastructure from VAST 2.0 to VAST 4.0 standard, improving ad delivery reliability and performance
- Developed React Native mobile application with cross-platform Android/iOS support
- Optimized mobile user experience through responsive design adaptations and performance improvements

Skyeer — Lead Frontend Engineer — *Apr 2017 — Jan 2023*

Geospatial software startup specializing in drone mapping solutions for enterprise clients

- Architected and developed comprehensive web-GIS platform using React, Redux-Saga, and advanced mapping technologies (Mapbox, Cesium, Potree), establishing market position as most accurate measurement solution in geospatial industry
- Delivered platform MVP in 3 months securing 1st place at Gazprom "Unmanned Biathlon" with ±0.02 m³ accuracy, leading to 10+ enterprise contracts worth $1M+ annually
- Implemented advanced technical features: resumable uploads up to 100 GB via tus.io, 360° panorama visualization, point cloud processing (10M+ datasets with 60fps WebGL rendering)
- Created reusable UI component library with 50+ components and React Cosmos playground, reducing development time across multiple projects
- Led cross-functional team of 8 engineers (4 frontend, 2 backend, 1 QA, 1 Documentation Writer) implementing Agile methodologies with weekly 1:1s and structured career progression
- Established comprehensive QA automation framework with 800+ Selenium E2E tests, improving release stability by 80% and enabling continuous deployment
- Implemented internationalization (i18next) supporting English and German markets with comprehensive technical documentation platform

Career Development Period — *May 2015 — Apr 2017*

Focused on React ecosystem mastery and modern frontend architecture transition

- **Liga Stavok** (*Sep 2015 — Jan 2016*): Built scalable UI/UX library with 40+ React components and Redux state management
- **OneTwoTrip** (*May 2015 — Sep 2015*): Developed payment systems and optimized search functionality with significant performance improvements
- **Ivideon** (*Sep 2016 — Apr 2017*): Extended video surveillance platform with custom timeline components and mobile adaptations
- Transitioned expertise from jQuery/BackboneJS to modern React ecosystem, developing deep knowledge in Redux architecture and component design patterns

Sovzond — Senior Frontend Engineer — *Jun 2013 — May 2015*

Satellite imagery and geospatial data provider serving government and commercial sectors

- Designed and delivered comprehensive "Satellite Imagery Archive" SPA using BackboneJS, Leaflet, and Bootstrap with dynamic search capabilities
- Implemented polygon drawing tools, WMS cadastral data integration, and virtualized table scrolling for large datasets
- Built cart and account management system for satellite imagery ordering and download workflows
- Led migration from ExtJS to BackboneJS with full REST API integration and white-label theming capabilities
- Initiated regression testing program, establishing QA processes and hiring first dedicated testing specialist

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python
Frontend Technologies: React (18), Next.js, Redux, Redux-Saga, React Native, HTML5, CSS3, TailwindCSS, WebGL
Backend Technologies: Node.js, FastAPI, Flask, Express
Databases & Caching: PostgreSQL, Redis
DevOps & Testing: Docker, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, Cypress, Jest, Selenium, E2E testing
Specialized Domains: Geospatial (CesiumJS, Mapbox GL JS, Leaflet, Potree), Media Streaming (FFmpeg, HLS/DASH), AI/ML APIs (GPT, Claude, Perplexity)
Cloud & Monitoring: Docker containerization, Grafana analytics, Sentry error tracking, automated deployment pipelines

Leadership & Management Skills

- Team Leadership & Cross-functional Collaboration (up to 8 engineers)
- Technical Architecture & System Design
- Performance Optimization & Database Scaling
- Agile/Scrum Methodologies & Sprint Planning
- Mentoring & Knowledge Transfer Programs
- A/B Testing & Data-driven Decision Making

Education

Bachelor of Science in Theoretical Physics
Kuban State University — Graduated 2010

Relevant Coursework: Advanced Mathematics, Statistical Mechanics, Computational Physics programming, Mathematical modeling, Statistical analysis, and Algorithm development

Portfolio & Demonstrations

- **Geospatial Platform Demo**: [YouTube Showcase](#)
- **Bot Garden Projects**: [hello-bot](#) | [hello-ai-bot](#) | [english-teacher-bot](#)

Additional Information

- **Availability**: Immediate availability for Lead Frontend Engineer roles at product-focused startups
- **Work Preferences**: Remote-first, open to hybrid arrangements and international contracts
- **Target Industries**: AI-powered development platforms, streaming media, geospatial technologies

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