

JACO KOTZEE

jakwakwa@gmail.com • 076 341 0291 • Cape Town, South Africa • www.jacofrontend.dev

SUMMARY

As a seasoned frontend engineer based in the picturesque city of Cape Town, I take pride in my unique qualifications. Not only am I adept as a frontend software developer and engineer, but I also possess highly refined skills as a UI/UX designer.

EXPERIENCE

7secondSolar, Frontend Engineer

Sep 2023 - May 2024

Collaborated with the AUTOPV™ back-end development team as well as UX/UI teams to design, develop, and implement new features.

Identified a critical vulnerability in the inherited front-end architecture (GraphQL & SST) which posed a significant risk to our small, relatively inexperienced development team due to its complexity and reliance on niche technologies.

I took the initiative to refactor critical sections of the front-end, replacing the complex GraphQL & SST setup with a more maintainable and accessible architecture utilizing standard fetch patterns in React with TypeScript.

This strategic decision resulted in a [quantified cost reduction, e.g., 15%] decrease in AWS service expenses and, more importantly, empowered the less experienced development team to confidently manage and maintain the front-end codebase. Actively participated in code reviews, providing valuable feedback to team members, and actively contributing to the continuous improvement of the codebase.

Dedicated to staying up-to-date with the latest advancements in front-end and back-end technologies, ensuring a solid understanding of current trends and innovations.

Actively involved in mentoring junior developers, sharing my knowledge and experience, and fostering a collaborative and supportive learning environment within the team.

Ace Secure, Freelance Frontend Engineer

Feb 2023 - Aug 2023

As a consultant for a web security company in The Netherlands, I was solely responsible for all Frontend and UI design work for the development of an eLearning platform P.O.C. This included creating a visually appealing and user-friendly interface, as well as ensuring that the platform was responsive and accessible across various devices.

Conducted thorough research and analysis of existing eLearning platforms to identify best practices and user preferences.

Created detailed UI mockups and wireframes to illustrate the platform's layout, navigation, and key features.

Implemented the UI design using Next.js, ensuring that the platform was visually appealing and consistent across all pages.

Integrated quizzes and video learning features into the platform, ensuring that they were engaging and interactive for learners.

Conducted regular testing to ensure the platform was functioning properly and addressing any bugs or issues.

Held weekly update meetings with the client to review the progress of the project, present design concepts, and discuss any challenges or issues.

Provided detailed status reports, including screenshots and demos, to keep the client informed of the platform's development.

Incorporated feedback from the client into the design and development process, ensuring that the final product met their expectations and requirements.

Ditto Hire / Ditto Jobs, Frontend Engineer + UI Design

Jun 2021 - Nov 2022

Ditto Hire is an intelligent recruiting platform that helps recruiters source, manage, market, and place more qualified candidates in less time.

Spearheaded the development of the Ditto Jobs Design System, a comprehensive framework encompassing reusable components, design guidelines, and rapid prototyping tools, resulting in a significant improvement in design consistency and development efficiency across Ditto Tech's digital products.

Led the front-end team, including two remote engineers based in India, fostering their skills and collaboration, and mentored a new UI/UX designer in design system creation and Figma best practices.

Initiated the codebase for the Talent Solutions CMS feature within the Ditto Jobs Design System, enabling efficient management of potential candidates for job postings.

Led the revamp of Ditto Jobs's UI design by establishing a Figma library for design teams, ensuring a unified design language across all platforms.

Created a streamlined development workflow integrating Figma, Zeplin, Storybook, and Next.js, facilitating the efficient translation of designs into code and ensuring consistency between design and implementation.

Took ownership of managing the Figma library as the single source of truth for design elements, ensuring the integrity of existing design screens.

Contributed to the creation and implementation of management processes, improving team efficiency and workflow.

*Freelance / Contract Work, **Frontend Development***

Nov 2020 - May 2021

After leaving Capitec, I decided to focus on smaller private freelance client work and focused a lot of my remaining time on learning new and more advanced features in ReactJs (like hooks, a new feature at the time). I learn the best by doing and using the amazing platform called frontendmentor.io - where I could build real-world HTML, CSS, and JavaScript challenges. This helped me to stay active and simultaneously I could use this to showcase more of my coding ability and comprehension of the latest frontend tools that can be used alongside React - the most notable of these were the likes of styled-components, Parcel, TypeScript.

*Capitec Bank, **UX Engineer***

Feb 2020 - Nov 2020

Joined Capitec's Business Solutions department, working in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment. Focused on tasks aimed at solving problems for their latest mobile banking application.

Developed with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, leveraging the Kendo UI library.

Added accessibility scripts for the mobile banking app to improve usability.

Worked on UX/UI component requirements, ensuring a user-friendly interface.

Implemented accessibility scripts to improve the mobile banking app's usability for all customers.

Contributed to the development of UX/UI components.

Utilized a prototyping tool to generate code for front-end developers, empowering the UX team to maintain control over component design and enabling the front-end team to concentrate on business logic and data integration.

Processes I had to adhere to:

Agile, Scrum methodologies

Collaborated with Business Analysts and Test Analysts to ensure smooth project delivery.

Conducted testing on devices to ensure optimal performance.

*Span Digital, **Frontend Developer + UI Designer***

Jun 2018 - Jan 2020

I thrived in the environment at Span Digital, surrounded by a highly talented and experienced team. The company prioritized employee well-being and fostered a culture of continuous learning and development. My primary contribution was to an internal web-based application used by leading Silicon Valley enterprises. This project provided my initial experience with React and Redux, predominantly written in TypeScript. I worked closely with a senior developer, assisting him while gaining valuable knowledge. I also took responsibility for creating and implementing a design system for the project.

Created and managed design systems for an internal product, ensuring consistency and efficiency in the development process.

Collaborated on an internal web application built with React, gaining exposure to ReasonML. This product is used by two prominent international companies in Silicon Valley.

Supported internal brand design initiatives through UI design contributions.

Researched and implemented workflows using Figma and the Figma Web API to streamline collaboration between designers and developers.

*Responsive Digital (Short term contract), **Frontend Developer***

Jan 2018 - May 2018

At Responsive Digital, I focused on learning and enhancing my skills in Angular 2. I also used HTML, CSS, and jQuery to implement concepts developed by the team for a digital magazine pitched to major South African brands like Woolworths.

*Brandfoundry (Short term contract), **Frontend Development***

Oct 2017 - Dec 2017

I actively contributed to a large-scale, ongoing internal software revamp project for Old Mutual. This involved working collaboratively with a dedicated team to enhance and modernize the existing software infrastructure.

*StratCol Ltd (Freelance Work), **Web Development***

Mar 2017 - Sep 2017

Designed and developed a new WordPress website for StratCol, aligning it with the corporate identity I had previously created for them in 2015.

*IO Digital, **UI Development and Design***

Jan 2014 - Feb 2017

As part of a dynamic and talented team at IO Digital, I contributed to the conceptualization, design, development, and scaling of innovative and impactful digital products.

Led UI design for the majority of projects, ensuring user-centered and aesthetically pleasing interfaces.

Developed the front-end for all projects, writing maintainable, scalable, responsive, and cross-browser compatible code using CSS, HTML, JavaScript, and jQuery.

Assisted the Head of Design in a design and advisory capacity, providing support and expertise on various projects.

EDUCATION

Tshwane University of Technology

B.Tech Multimedia • Sep 2006 - May 2009

Montana High School

Distinction in Computer Studies

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced JavaScript and ES6

Udemy •

React and Redux Masterclass

Coursera •

SKILLS

Frontend Development • UI/UX Design • Design Systems • Collaboration • Problem Solving • Mentorship • English
• Afrikaans