



I AM JAMES FINLEY

I am **James Finley**. Yeah, Finley as in a descendant of **MacBeth**, King of Scotland. I am a **software engineer** with over **20 years of experience** in JavaScript, CSS, PHP, MySQL, and even Swift on iOS.

My passion lies in crafting **accessible, user-friendly, and lightning-fast experiences**. Throughout my career, I've woven a rich tapestry of successful projects, each contributing to a legacy of excellence.

Fine tuning the performance of APIs, database queries, and yes, even CSS to deliver the **best user experience** is my life work.

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SKILLS

React (7+ yrs)

Angular (7+ yrs)

JavaScript & Typescript (10+ yrs)

Accessibility (10+ yrs)

PHP (10+ yrs)

Frontend Engineering (10+ yrs)

EXPERIENCE

KnowInk - Senior Software Engineer II

From modern React and Angular projects to Blazor and C#, I worked on implementing standards- and test-driven solutions. I helped build the foundations of a Stencil-based web component library to standardize our UX across many applications in multiple frameworks and languages. This component library was built test-driven with Testing Library, the same library used in countless React projects, and had 100% coverage. I also was charged with spearheading a Cypress test library to cover the TotalVote voter registration software to reduce the time required by QAs to manually test the application and catch potential bugs earlier in the development cycle.

Skills used: React, Angular, TypeScript, JavaScript, Stencil Web Components, UX, Cypress, Testing Library, test-driven development, Git, NPM

March 2024 – April 2025

WWT/Asynchrony - Lead UX Frontend Engineer

Over the span of five years, I led dynamic teams in delivering innovative solutions for clients across diverse sectors, including banking, communications, utilities, education, and medical technologies. My expertise lies in leveraging modern frontend frameworks such as React and Angular, along with CMS software like Craft CMS. My unwavering focus on user experience

ensures lightning-fast interfaces, highly accessible applications, and delightful interactions with every tap.

Asynchrony practiced two distinct things with fervor: pair programming and test-driven development. At Asynchrony, I learned and honed my understanding of unit test-driven development and end-to-end testing with Selenium and Cypress. Write a test, write the passing code, refactor the code. This led to all but one of my projects having 100% test coverage, including over everything from APIs, React API fetching, application logic, and UI components. You can call me a true believer.

The last project I worked on was a PHP-based CMS-driven marketing site. I delivered multiple custom, PHP plugins for our client to allow customers to find and contact local clinics while making it painless for our customers to enter and update their information.

Skills used: React, Angular, TypeScript, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Craft CMS, UX, interface design, Selenium, Cypress, unit tests, Jest, Testing Library, test-driven development, Git, NPM

August 2018 – February 2024

Intercard – iOS Engineer

I joined the team to create cross-platform mobile apps that handle card balances for arcades and gaming businesses. Along the way, I also got involved in the building of a web app for making reservations for parties and events, while mentoring a young developer that was on the project.

Skills used: Swift, C#, Xamarin, Angular 4, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Git, NPM

August 2017 – August 2018

Emerson Climate Technologies – Front-End Web Developer

At Emerson, I spearheaded the development of polished user experiences across various products, including ComfortGuard and Sensi. I also designed mobile-friendly email notifications. Additionally, I crafted a visually appealing marketing website for Sensi using Craft CMS. This website streamlined access to answers for common questions, highlighted new and upcoming features, and facilitated the purchase and installation of the Sensi thermostat.

With Sensi's website powered by a version of Craft before migrations were added, I built a custom migration system in Node.js and MySQL that allowed us to deploy changes to Craft's configuration, including elements and fields as well as content from our Git repo. With migrations, we could develop and deploy using modern methods, including across multiple environments.

Skills used: HTML, CSS, PHP, MySQL, Salesforce, JavaScript, Node.js, Craft CMS, Git, NPM
March 2016 – June 2017

HLK – Front-End Web Developer

I built and maintained WordPress sites for clients, including Monsanto.

Skills used: WordPress, Responsive Web Design, PHP, MySQL, HTML, Sass/CSS, JavaScript, Objective-C, Git

July 2015 – January 2016

eTecc / Interactive – Software Engineer

While at eTecc, I built large-scale PHP/MySQL applications for car dealership industry and white-label iOS apps for dealership customers, deploying over a dozen apps for Ford, Mazda,

Nissan, and more. These apps allowed for insurance claims to be filed by customers and managed by employees.

My first tasks including optimizing a dashboard that took minutes to load. By reducing n+1 (more like n+10) queries into queries that included internal logic, I was able to deliver load times of under 15 seconds, reducing load on servers and cost of support members that relied on the dashboard daily.

Skills used: Responsive Web Design, PHP, MySQL, HTML, Sass/CSS, design, Objective-C, Git
July 2013 – July 2015

higi - Front-End Developer

I helped the redevelopment of higi's marketing site to support mobile devices with responsive web development techniques and worked with the team to conceive, plan, and build new features for their web app using PHP, MySQL, and modern web standards.

Skills used: Responsive Web Design, PHP, MySQL, HTML, Sass/CSS, jQuery, design, Git
September 2012 – June 2013

Echo Design Group - Senior Web Developer

Joining the team right as the whole Responsive Web Design movement kicked off, I built a dozen sites from start to launch, working with the design team to implement strong, mobile-friendly experiences. I also helped them improve their organizational workflow, including utilizing Github for deployment and version control and built a custom PHP and MySQL-powered CMS for managing web sites.

Our custom CMS was built on the idea of editable and repeatable regions, countering the common pattern of a large WYSIWYG that WordPress was well-known for at the time. We could define pieces of content that a client could edit without giving them the ability to touch HTML and CSS, which often would lead to unintended consequences.

Skills used: Responsive Web Design, PHP, MySQL, HTML, Sass/CSS, jQuery, design, Git
July 2011 – August 2012

Abt - Developer

Managed multiple projects and worked with the team to better organize projects and communication.

Skills used: PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, jQuery, design
January 2011 – June 2011

Community Christian Church - Web Development Director

I built a new web application that brought a brand new view of social interactivity to church websites and also brought a full online church system for running both live and prerecorded services. I honed my skills in asynchronous JavaScript, Flash, PHP and relational databases.

Skills used: PHP, Code Igniter, MySQL, HTML, CSS, jQuery, ActionScript 3.0, design and layout

December 2009 – January 2011

Clear Channel Radio - Senior Online Content Manager

I led the development of an application for managing the office paperwork that covered everything from the sale of an ad to a client to the production and airing of the ad on the

radio. Not only this, but I was also largely in charge of the websites for two radio stations in Chicago.

Skills used: PHP, Code Igniter, mySQL, HTML, CSS, jQuery, ActionScript 3.0, design and layout

September 2008 – May 2009

EDUCATION

The Illinois Institute of Art - Schaumburg

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Web Design & Interactive Media

December 2008