

Justin Bell

justin@justinbell.me | justinbell.me | linkedin.com/in/jbell7 | Los Angeles, CA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Independent Software Engineer & Contract Work

Product Development & Professional Growth

Los Angeles, CA · Jan 2025 - Present

Following organizational restructuring at The Washington Post (Arc XP), continuing professional development through product building and contract engineering:

- Contract Engineer for stealth startup - contributing to early-stage platform development in the renewable energy sector
- Architected, built, and launched GameRelish (gamerelish.com) - a community feedback platform for gaming franchises featuring enterprise-grade architecture: 41+ RLS policies with role-based access, multi-tiered abuse prevention, React Query with optimistic updates, email automation, and Next.js 15 with 100% TypeScript coverage and comprehensive test suite
- Modernized Atraves (atraves.net) - React/Firebase application (previously built in Angular 1) for cross-world messaging via antipodal maps with geospatial queries, location fuzzing for privacy, and multilingual support (12 languages)
- Preparing for AWS Solutions Architect - Associate certification to deepen cloud infrastructure expertise gained from 5 years at The Washington Post (Arc XP)
- Building new full-stack applications and modernizing legacy projects with current best practices (Next.js, TypeScript, serverless) while exploring AI/ML integration for real-time collaboration and scalability

Washington Post (Arc XP)

Senior Software Engineer / Software Engineer (Promoted Apr 2023)

Los Angeles, CA · Dec 2019 - Dec 2024 (Role eliminated in organizational restructuring)

- Led rebuild of WebSked's List View using React, refactoring legacy AngularJS CMS code for scalability and maintainability
- Crafted React components for Arc internal UI libraries (built with Tailwind/Bootstrap); tested with Chai, Jest, and Cypress
- Architected an org-wide config-free user authorization system in Node.js reducing admin support tickets by >40%
- Created AWS S3 metadata aggregation tools for customer deployment visibility and CI/CD debugging
- Built REST APIs, automation scripts and DynamoDB schemas enabling fine-grained RBAC
- Consolidated monthly usage data using AWS Lambda-based services
- Solution designed Featured Media appending in most used customer facing app and identified critical bottlenecks
- Led cross-functional "Trident Training Sessions" to help colleagues interface with our backend systems more confidently
- Ensured internationalization compliance (i18n) and RTL support for SLA-bound applications
- Rotated in 24/7 on-call support for live triaging and Slack-based incident response
- Implemented and maintained CI/CD pipelines and AWS cloud infrastructure

EDUCATION

Hack Reactor / Telegraph Academy - Software Engineering Immersive (2016)

Dartmouth College - BA in Sociology (2012)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Skills: JavaScript, TypeScript, React, React Query, AWS (Lambda, S3, DynamoDB, CloudFormation, CodePipeline), Next.js, Zod, HTML5, SCSS, Tailwind, Bootstrap, AngularJS, Responsive Design, Twig, Django templating, Cypress, Jest, Chai, Node.js, Express, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, Supabase, Firebase, MongoDB, Redis, Row-Level Security (RLS), Docker, Microservices, CI/CD, SEO, Google Analytics, CAPTCHA integration, Email automation (SMTP), Git, GitHub Actions, Agile/Scrum

Interests: Product Engineering, Music Production, Physical Fitness, Nature & the Outdoors, Fictional Writing, Community Impact, LA Sports (Lakers/Dodgers) & the Philadelphia Eagles, Food (cooking & eating)