



# Cory Simmons

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## About

I've been making websites since 1997, professionally since 2006.

I've made very popular open-source frontend tools (two 3,000+ star projects) which are used in production frequently by small agencies and large corporations.

I've written articles for some of the largest publishers in the industry about unique approaches to very common problems, and a book on responsive web-design.

I've spoken at a few conferences and Meetups.

I've lead frontend development on sites with tens of millions of visitors and have been approached to work with Facebook.

## Skills

I'm **very good** at:

design, typography, HTML, CSS, ES5, ES6, jQuery, WordPress, PHP, Node.js, Grunt, Gulp, npm scripts, creating CLI tools, Browserify, PostCSS, Stylus, Sass, grid systems, frontend performance, working with RESTful APIs.

I'm **pretty good** at:

PHP, WebPack, Illustrator, Photoshop.

I've **studied, but not used** much of:

React, Laravel, Vue, Express, Rollup, After Effects, developing RESTful APIs.

I've **bumbled around** with:

Ruby on Rails, Django, devops (Vagrant), sysops (Digital Ocean), Redux.

## Work History

I began working professionally in 2006 doing freelance work for local small businesses — typically custom HTML/CSS sites. I had a lot of happy customers and really enjoyed work.

Around 2008 I began doing freelance jobs by finding work on big-city Craigslist. After a few projects, one of my clients hired me full-time for a few years. The pay was bad, but it kept my family afloat. My relationship with that client was on-and-off for several years depending on financial needs. Most of that work was WordPress and Photoshop.

Around 2012 I tried to start a small business in a small city in Kentucky. I acquired a few happy clients, but there simply wasn't a lot of money in the area. Money got tight, I had a new baby, and I got a job offer with a competitor. They made me sign a non-compete and I took my clients there as a sign of good faith. A few months later they fired me for my much more backend-talented friend. I don't sign non-competes anymore.

In October 2013 I took a job in Rhode Island at MojoTech. During the interview process, I made it clear I didn't know much about Rails but was willing to learn it. I was told I would be trained. Training lasted a few days. I worked there for about a year on a few large Rails projects, mostly doing frontend work. It was very difficult and even though I'd work late many nights, I always felt like I was just barely pulling my weight.

I developed a bad case of imposter syndrome and began drinking too much. I got drunk one night and woke up the evening of the next day. My roommate/co-worker informed me I somehow found my way to work, walked in, and passed out. They told me to go home. The next day I was fired. I stopped drinking as much.

I moved back to Kentucky and began authoring for publishers like TutsPlus for about a year. This was a good gig, but didn't pay as much as I thought I could earn with a full-time job.

I got a remote, full-time, job with Grist for a little over a year. I enjoyed it but it wasn't remotely challenging and the pace of development was bogged down with meaningless meetings of back-pattery. I saved a bit of money, quit to study React, and "upgrade" my job to something that paid more and was more interesting.

Recently I worked on-site in Washington D.C (3.5 hour commute from where I lived at the time — each way) for nclud developing WordPress sites for exorbitant amounts of money. My Macbook, and their same model Macbook, began suffering from an obscure bug that caused them to crash randomly. When it would crash, it would corrupt things — like databases.

After a few months of miserable commutes, working 7-days a week, and feeling like a fraud, I quit and have since repaired my Macbook.



## **Why should you hire a drunk with broken Macbook?**

I rarely drink anymore. I've fixed my hardware. I work hard. I do good work.

I've dipped my toes in a lot of aspects of web-development. Because of this, I frequently come up with creative solutions to seemingly complicated problems (these may, or may not, be better than existing design patterns).

I'm extremely eager to learn. Because of this, I'm not afraid to tackle any problem (this may, or may not, result in overestimation on my part).

I'm open, honest, and can provide a list of professional references to attest to my character.

## **What am I looking for in a job?**

I need a remote job. I keep accepting on-site jobs. The atmosphere interests me, but there's really no need for it, and I want to live close to my kids so I can participate in their lives.

I need a consistent paycheck. I'm pretty burnt out on worrying if I'll be able to pay my bills, and being too poor to help people who care about me when they're in need. That said, the following stipulations should be considered "nice to haves".

I'd like a job where I'm not walking into a huge mess, but where I'll be working on things I've been studying (e.g. React/Redux, WP REST API, Laravel, OO PHP).

I'd like patient mentorship or at least a little time to study every now and then. I'd like to know the job inside-and-out to avoid imposter syndrome. Then I'd like to repay that mentorship/study-time with high-quality/fast work.

## **Thank you...**

...for taking the time to read this.

I hope to hear from you soon. If you're not interested, I know a lot of designers/developers and might be able to point you to someone you might click with more.