



# 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 our needs. Most of that work was WordPress and Photoshop focused.

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 at a Rails development agency in Rhode Island. 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 ultimately left. It was a great place full of very talented people working at a level too high for me at the time. I've since learned quite a bit more about backend.

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 so I began pursuing a full-time job.

A few months later, I got a remote job working for a non-profit in Seattle for a little over a year. I enjoyed it but it wasn't very challenging and the pace of development was bogged down with excessive meetings. I saved a bit of money, left to study React, and "upgraded" my job to something that paid more and was more interesting.

My most recent job was working for an agency in Washington D.C. I lived in extremely rural Virginia at the time. I didn't have access to internet so attempted to make a 7 hour commute each day. I was able to do it for a few months, but eventually the sleep debt caught up with me and I ended up leaving.

## **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 long-term, 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 love to have a job where I'll be working on things I've been studying and I'm most interested in (e.g. React/Redux, WP REST API, Laravel, OO PHP, Express).

If I'm very lucky, I'll work with a patient mentor who will help me really master these technologies. I'd like to know the job inside-and-out to avoid imposter syndrome and be as productive as I can be.

## **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.