


**Tom Lewis (Technical Engineer) and Dan Wildman (Product Engineer) from Adaptable**  
(<https://weareadaptable.com/work/>)

OUR STORY

## The ability to adjust to new conditions — that's the definition of adaptable.



- Founded in 2013 by directors Dan and Olly.
- Based in Birmingham, we work remotely Monday - Wednesday and gather in the office on Thursday's and Friday's for meetings, social events and team breakfasts!
- Currently we are a team of 8 (although soon to be a team of 9 - thanks to SoC), consisting of 4 developers specialising in a mixture of front end and back end development, with design support and project management in-house too.
- Originally started out as a WordPress development agency, designing and building websites utilising HTML, CSS, JavaScript and PHP, but have seen this transition into more product-based style projects utilising React.
- More recently a typical project would be a portal/dashboard project utilising Next.js and a bespoke backend, or brochure websites consisting of a headless backend such as WordPress or Sanity.

Review the tech stack at end of every project and add/remove as necessary, but core tools used:

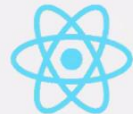
## Some of our favourite tools

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### Frontend



### Frameworks/Misc



### Backend



express



Prisma



GraphQL

# adaptable x React

- Why did we choose React?
- What made us decide to use Next.js?
- How do we use React commercially as a business?
  - For portal/dashboard projects (incl. bespoke API's)
  - Headless websites utilising WordPress and Sanity
- Powerful features within traditional projects or stand-alone development - Google API searches, bespoke form systems, and much more
- Our working methodology: sprints, pair programming, peer reviews, writing reusable code and approaches to testing.
- The future of development at adaptable: Greater number of headless React projects replacing traditional WordPress projects (where appropriate), increase in sprint based retainers for "product" development, with an overall greater focus on Accessibility standards compliant code.

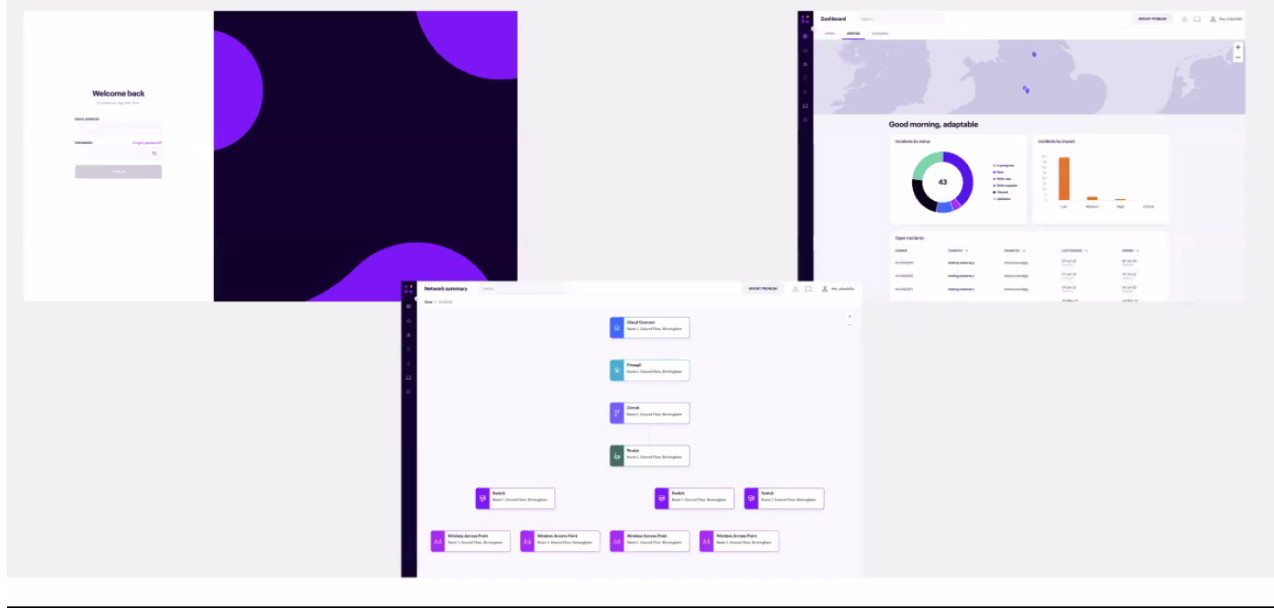
Chose React for its eco-system of supporting libraries

First time, just used React to build components like a small cinema listing

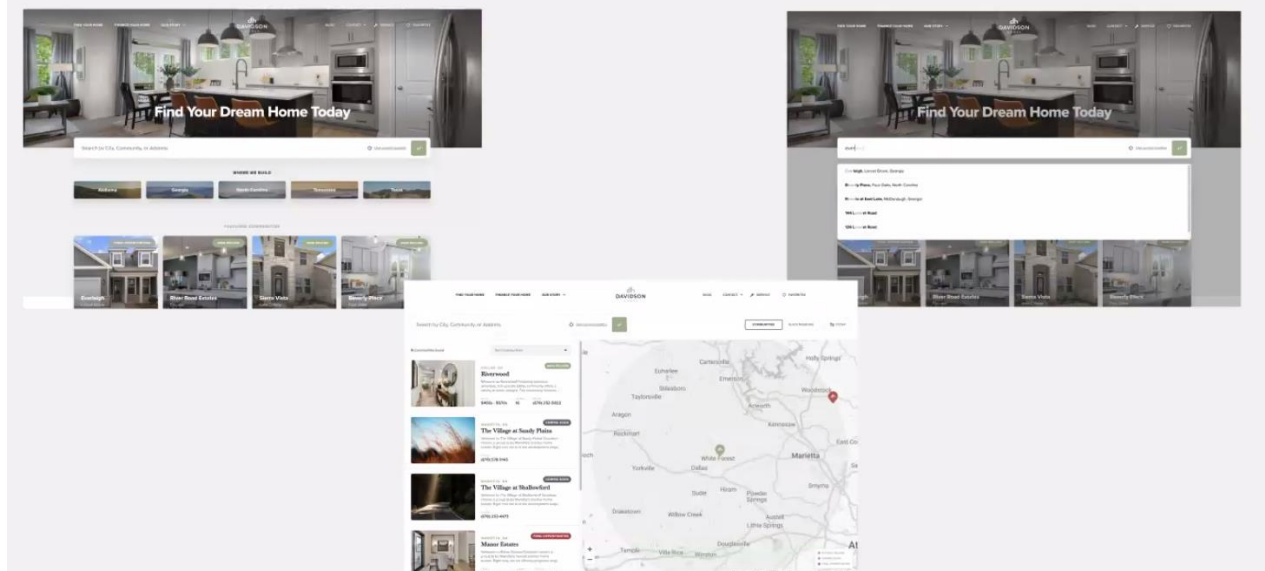
Then scaled up when building donation platforms, started to use Next.JS

Now majority of entire projects will be in React and Next.JS

## Example Portal (Bespoke API)



# Example Headless Website



Headless = using a pre-existing backend like Wordpress and building your own Frontend with something else like React

## Q & A

What do you look for when hiring? = Looking for how you are trying to solve problems, how have you solved problems in the past, a bit of experience with some of their tech stack

What is a product engineer? = 2 different types of product – “brochure websites” and “dashboards/platforms”. Dan’s job is about architecting and planning the products.

Headless = Traditional CMS like Wordpress deals with data and templating etc. Headless CMS deals with data and exposes that as an API, then you can use your choice of tool to access that. (I googled and found this - <https://www.contentful.com/r/knowledgebase/what-is-headless-cms/>)

How do you organise your time (and which time management app)? = Everyone works on anything needed in any capacity as they are a small company. Use tools like Tick and Slack.

Do you do one website at a time or lots concurrently? = A mix! Sometimes it will be 1 or 2 people seeing a brochure website through from start to finish, other times it would hopping on and off. They work in small fortnight sprints and only tend to have 1 developer working on a major project at any time.

Tom Lewis to Everyone

10:03 AM

TL

In case we forget - Thanks for having us, and if you have any further questions please feel free to contact us via email:

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To find out more about adaptable and our career opportunities, visit: [weareadaptable.com](http://weareadaptable.com)