

# Shaun O'Connell

## Lead Front-end Developer and Interaction Designer

With over 23 years of relevant web development, design, and research experience, Shaun is a valuable contributor to any web or web application development project. He is also a capable speaker, tutor, and advocate for the Open Web and Web Standards. Resilience, performance, sharing, and quality are some of Shaun's guiding principles.

## Work experience

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2024

### **Lead Front-end Developer** at [tactile.co.za](https://tactile.co.za)

January, 2007 to present day

Consulting and contracting as a front-end developer, building design systems, static sites, and web applications.

I've also been developing my own UI pattern library. Examples include:

- [Vanilla's Pattern Library](#)
- [Te Whatu Ora, UI pattern library POC](#)
- [Lil' Regie's front-end workshop](#)

2023

### **Technical Lead, Design Systems (Contract)** at [Te Whatu Ora, Health NZ](#)

July, 2023 to November, 2023

Te Whatu Ora's Data & Digital team wanted a second opinion on their fledgling Design System. They called me in to both consult on this Design System, but also help with general IT tasks.

2022

### **Senior Front-end Developer** at [Ackama](#)

October, 2021 to June, 2022

Upon returning to New Zealand, I worked on various CMS themes for non-profits, and government organisations.

2020

### **Front-end Development Teacher (Contract)** at [Onja](#)

December, 2019 to October, 2020

This one year contract saw me fly to Madagascar, where I helped teach 20 students how to be front-end web developers.

2019

### **Design Systems Developer** at [Flick Electric co.](#)

April, 2018 to December, 2019

Together with Sophie Price, and Kah Ho Chan, we created Flick's Design System. This Design System was used in 7 distinct Rails front-ends, and on the company blog.

2017

**Senior Front-end Developer & Interaction Designer** at [Abletech](#) and [AddressFinder](#)

October, 2014 to October, 2017

With Abletech's help, I relocated to New Zealand, where I worked on both the internal product, AddressFinder, and as a consultant for Abletech's clients.

Most of the work was in Ruby on Rails front-ends, and building complimentary pattern libraries using Middleman.

One of the highlights of my time at Abletech was working on Trade Me's design system: [Tangram](#).

2014

**Front-end Developer & Interaction Designer** at various South African organisations

January, 1999 to August, 2014

I worked in South Africa for several organisations over 14 years, including: [22seven](#), [Kalahari.com](#), [Yola](#), [CareerJunction](#), [Consology](#), [Oracle](#), and [Dimension Data](#).

At Yola, I worked with both the product and the engineering teams, doing low-fi design, and then implementing it during development.

During my time with Consology, I was responsible for developing and theming a white-labelled self-service web application for Oracle.

1999

**Junior Web Developer**

Entered the IT industry as a self-taught Web Developer

## Skills

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- HTML, XML, YAML, Markdown
- CSS, Sass
- JavaScript, Node.js, PWAs, Service Workers, DOM
- Mentoring, training, paired-programming
- Web Standards, Accessibility, Web Components
- Design Systems, Pattern Library, and Component Library Development
- Web Performance Optimisations
- User Research, Usability Testing, Surveying, RITE
- Interaction Design, Wireframing, and Storyboarding

# Interests

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<b>Volunteering</b>	I work in my spare time as a volunteer. Offering mentorship to junior web developers, as well as aiding conservation efforts.
<b>Gaming</b>	I love the intricacies, rules, and systems in modern board-games, computer games, and role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons.
<b>Lego Technics</b>	Amateur robotics and mechanical engineering with these amazing toys.
<b>Birdwatching</b>	I know my fair share of Southern African bird species, and am slowly building my knowledge of New Zealand species.
<b>Photography</b>	An amateur at best, but I love landscape, nature, macro, and long-exposure/space photography.
<b>Aquaria</b>	Freshwater aquarium fish keeping and aquascaping. One of my first paying jobs was as an aquarist in Johannesburg, South Africa

# Get in touch

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- Visit my site: [tactile.co.za](https://tactile.co.za)
- Email me: [shaun@tactile.co.za](mailto:shaun@tactile.co.za)
- [LinkedIn: ndorfin](#)
- [SEEK: ndorfin](#)
- [GitHub: ndorfin](#)

The latest version of this CV is available online at [ndorfin.github.io/cv](https://ndorfin.github.io/cv)