

Forest Welch



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Fullstack Software Engineer with 4+ years of experience building scalable, user-centric applications. I blend technical expertise with global perspectives and creativity, drawing on my experiences as a polyglot, linguist, mentor, organizer, and yogi to deliver impactful, human-centered solutions.

EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed

Consultant, Software Engineer

San Francisco, CA

May 2024 - Present

- Delivered SEO and UX optimization services to small businesses, improving traffic and accessibility.
- Built an esports bracket manager for automated score reporting and a live-stream overlay tool.
- Conducted career coaching and mock interviews for full-stack development bootcamp graduates.
- Designing a media app to simplify decision-making with suggestions tailored by user tags and preferences.

BuildVision

Software Engineer (Contract)

San Francisco, CA

November 2023 - April 2024

- Spearheaded initial app views and a reusable UI component library in Next.js, driving a rapid increase in development efficiency and ensuring visual consistency across projects.
- Replaced in-house querying system with RTK Query, enhancing performance with features like pagination, caching, and search filters.
- Developed a component specification tool, streamlining admin workflows and boosting team efficiency.

Career Break – Skill Development & Community Leadership

Freelance Educator & Organizer

Remote and Abroad

January 2022 - November 2023

- Taught over 1,000 personalized ASL, English, and French lessons to global clients via italki.com.
- Provided life coaching with neuroscience and mindfulness techniques, enhancing client productivity.
- Co-organized monthly esports tournaments and assisted with regional event coordination.
- Managed operations for hostels across Asia, handling reception, cleaning, accounting, and event planning.

Autodesk (Formerly BuildingConnected)

Software Engineer

San Francisco, CA

August 2018 - January 2022

- Orchestrated the planning and execution of an internationalization and localization initiative, expanding product reach into Oceania and increasing the user base by 2x.
- Overhauled the React component library, removing redundancies and bugs while doubling functionality. Unified components and documented best practices at design.buildingconnected.com.
- Upgraded internal tools and migrated the UI from Angular to React, saving 20 hours per week for the Customer Success team and ensuring contract compliance, protecting \$1.5M in revenue.
- Implemented a user event tracking system and leveraged A/B testing with LaunchDarkly to optimize the onboarding flow, resulting in a 15% increase in successful sign-ups.
- Led an estimated cost feature initiative, empowering contractors with data-driven insights.
- Reduced build and deployment times by 50% by optimizing the frontend CircleCI pipeline.
- Managed the frontend interview process and mentored junior engineers and interns.

EDUCATION

App Academy

Fullstack Engineering

San Francisco, CA

2018

University of Pennsylvania

B.A. in Linguistics, minor in Deaf Studies

Philadelphia, PA

2012 - 2016

SKILLS

Proficient: JavaScript, React, Next.js, Redux, Node.js, MongoDB, Git, CircleCI, LaunchDarkly

Familiar: TypeScript, React Native, Appwrite, PostgreSQL, Docker, Heroku, AWS, Elastic Cloud, Snowflake, Redis, Mongoose, GraphQL, Jest, Cypress, Rails, Angular, Webpack, jQuery