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 Bullseye Collectibles, leading to a 100% increase in website traffic and enhanced discoverability on search engines like Google and Google Maps.
- Developed an esports bracket manager for automated score reporting, and a live-stream overlay tool.
- Conducted career coaching and mock interviews for bootcamp grads, resulting in five job offers.
- Built a real-time text editor using Next.js with TypeScript, using Clerk for authentication and Liveblocks for seamless document collaboration and comment threads.
- Starting on Upwork as a freelance engineer—more projects to come soon!

BuildVision
Software Engineer (Contract)

San Francisco, CA
November 2023 - April 2024

- Spearheaded the development of initial app views as the second engineer hired using Next.js, Nest.js, and Postgres, streamlining dev work and ensuring a successful on-time launch, securing pre-seed investment.
- Replaced internal querying system with RTK Query, optimizing data retrieval with features such as caching, pagination, and search filters, reducing API load times by 40%.
- Developed a component specification tool that automated admin workflows, saving 10 hours per week in data entry tasks and improving team productivity.

Career Break – Skill Development & Community Leadership
Freelance Educator & Organizer

Remote and Abroad
January 2022 - November 2023

- Took an extended career break to reassess career goals. Traveled Asia for 1 year, assisting in operations for hostels, farms, and animal sanctuaries. Taught 1000+ personalized French, ASL, and English lessons via italki.com. Dove into mindfulness and spiritual practices, gaining skills to become a personal coach.

Autodesk (Formerly BuildingConnected)
Software Engineer

San Francisco, CA
August 2018 - January 2022

- Led the localization initiative to expand into Oceania, doubling the user base. Implemented a centralized i18n system with hierarchical locale determination and consistent localization across apps. Coordinated workshops and updated linting to track progress, ensuring all strings were properly localized.
- Overhauled the React component library, reducing size by 30% and increasing functionality by 50%. Unified components and documented best practices at design.buildingconnected.com.
- Migrated internal tools from Angular to React, improving performance and usability while saving 20 hours per week for the Customer Success team and ensuring compliance, safeguarding $1.5M in contracts.
- Implemented a user event tracking system and used LaunchDarkly A/B testing with Snowflake analytics dashboards to optimize the onboarding flow, resulting in a 15% increase in successful registrations.

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, Nest.js, PostgreSQL, Docker, Heroku, AWS, Elastic Cloud, Snowflake, Redis, Mongoose, GraphQL, Jest, Cypress, Rails, Angular, Webpack, jQuery