# Forest Welch

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Linguist, polyglot, and queer yogi turned Fullstack Software Engineer with 4+ years of experience delivering intuitive, user-focused applications. Specialized in modern web technologies and known for clear communication, collaboration, and delivering seamless, high-impact solutions.

## EXPERIENCE

**Self-Employed** — San Francisco, CA
*Technical Consultant* — March 2024 - August 2024

- Enhanced SEO and UX for Bullseye Collectibles, doubling user traffic and improving site visibility.
- Conducted career coaching and mock interviews for full-stack development bootcamp graduates.
- Built an esports bracket management tool for automated score reporting and streamlining events.

**BuildVision** — San Francisco, CA
*Software Engineer (Contract)* — November 2023 - April 2024

- Spearheaded the development of 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 the in-house querying system with RTK Query, improving data refetching, load times, and adding features like pagination, caching, and search filters, leading to a smoother user experience.
- Streamlined admin workflows with a component specification tool, boosting operational efficiency.

**Autodesk (Formerly BuildingConnected)** — San Francisco, CA
*Software Engineer* — August 2018 - January 2022

- Orchestrated the development, planning, and architecture 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 frontend interviews, resulting in the hire of five engineers and two interns. Mentored junior engineers, providing structured feedback and onboarding support.
- Fostered morale by organizing pair programming and wellness sessions during the pandemic.

## EDUCATION

**App Academy** — San Francisco, CA
*Fullstack Engineering* — 2018

**University of Pennsylvania** — Philadelphia, PA
*B.A. in Linguistics, minor in Deaf Studies* — 2012 - 2016

## SKILLS

**Proficient:** JavaScript, React, Next.js, Redux, Node.js, MongoDB, Git, CircleCI, LaunchDarkly
**Familiar:** TypeScript, React Native, Angular, PostgreSQL, Docker, Heroku, AWS, Elastic Cloud, Snowflake, Redis, Mongoose, GraphQL, Jest, Cypress, Ruby on Rails, Webpack, jQuery