Portland, Oregon
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Phillip Hetzel

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Software Engineer with 3+ years of experience specializing in full-stack development and mobile solutions. Proven ability to deliver scalable, user-centric applications for startups and freelance clients. Expert at leveraging modern frameworks and cloud services to build robust, efficient systems.

Technologies and Languages

- Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, Ruby
- Frameworks: React, Next.js, React Native, FastApi, Django, Ruby on Rails
- Other: Git, Github Actions, Docker, PostgreSQL, Redis, Microsoft Azure, Digital Ocean, Vercel

Projects

React Native Political Sim   [Press Office]   December 2025

- Built an immersive White House press secretary simulation game with local-first architecture, enabling full offline gameplay and instant load times across iOS and Android.
- Engineered a custom LLM content pipeline generating ~600 unique political scenarios with validated Zod schemas, journalist exchanges, and outcome probability systems.
- Implemented WatermelonDB with SQLite for persistent game state, Zustand for ephemeral UI, and Maestro for E2E testing on real simulators with CI/CD via GitHub Actions.

Next.js Private Memories App   [I Love You Forever]   February 2025

- Built a secure, invite-only memory-sharing platform inspired by a beloved childhood book, crafted as a personal gift for my mom.
- Implemented custom invite-based authentication with Clerk, secure media handling via UploadThing, and type-safe database operations using Drizzle ORM.
- Created personalized email notifications using Resend and React Email, alongside a polished, responsive UI enhanced by Tailwind CSS and subtle visual effects.

Work Experience

Full Stack Software Engineer   Phar Technologies (LLC)   Fall 2023–Winter 2024
Portland, Oregon

- Developed full-stack web applications leveraging modern JavaScript frameworks (React, Next.js) and Python (FastAPI).
- Built backend APIs, integrating PostgreSQL and Redis for robust data management and caching.
- Automated complex workflows through containerization with Docker and deployment on platforms such as Digital Ocean and Vercel.
- Collaborated closely with stakeholders to ensure delivery of user-focused, scalable solutions.

Frontend Software Engineer   DocMatter   Fall 2021–Spring 2023
San Francisco, California

- Sole front-end engineer for React Native apps and a React web platform, enhancing UI/UX consistency.
- Led the integration of Detox tests and Mixpanel analytics, improving QA coverage and actionable insights.
- Collaborated cross-functionally to draft feature contracts and ensure seamless backend integration.