Web development is generally divided into two parts, with two separate sets of skills and technologies: the [front-end](https://www.upwork.com/hiring/development/front-end-developer/), which comprises all the parts of a website a user interacts with, and the [back-end](https://www.upwork.com/hiring/development/back-end-web-developer/), which acts like the machinery and plumbing behind the scenes that makes it all run. For the purposes of this article we’re going to focus on finding a developer who can handle the front-end (or, “client-side”) of your application.

We’ll also do a quick refresher of what a front-end developer does and provide you with a general framework for writing a front-end project description to help you find the right developer for your project needs.

### WHAT DOES A FRONT-END DEVELOPER DO?

A front-end developer uses a combination of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to build everything a user sees and interacts with on a website—that includes everything from front-end features like fonts, sliders, drop-down menus, and buttons, to the overall manner in which web content like photos, videos, and articles are displayed in your web browser.

Front-end developer skills are often thought of in three levels depending on their experience. Developers start at the junior phase for the first few years, although the number of apps they’ve developed and the apps’ complexity are far more important when you determine the right developer for your project. After working alongside more experienced developers, they move to the intermediate phase where they can work on more projects independently. A senior developer can not only code a project, but they can also make decisions about how to design products.

As far as skills in front-end development, look for tools and technologies like:

* Fundamentals like HTML, JavaScript, and CSS
* CSS preprocessors like Sass and LESS
* JavaScript frameworks like Ember, AngularJS, React, etc., or JS-based build tools like Grunt, Gulp, and Bower
* Libraries like jQuery or Backbone.js
* Front-end (CSS) frameworks like Foundation or Bootstrap
* AJAX
* Note: Advanced front-end developers will have a mix of front-end and back-end technology expertise, including solution stacks like MEAN or LAMP, and server-side technologies like Node, Java, or Ruby.