

Robert Wierzbowski

rob.wierzbowski@gmail.com

<https://robwierzbowski.com>

Austin, Texas

Frontend focused engineer and tech leader in Austin, TX

I'm an engineer with 15+ years of experience in frontend technology and a decade in engineering leadership. I combine technical and organizational work to solve broad problems, creating happiness and efficiency in the teams I support. My colleagues appreciate my drive to fully understand and communicate a problem space, the way I handle complex initiatives comfortably and without ego, and my emphasis on simple, practical solutions.

I focus on frontend platform and UX engineering, but I'm interested in all high level work that creates a positive impact for the teams and business partners around me.

Experience

Principal Frontend Platform Engineer

Stitch Fix, 2017 - 2023

As the first senior frontend hire in Stitch Fix's customer-facing organization, I co-led the company's frontend modernization and maturation. My direct contribution, technical leadership and mentorship helped shape frontend products and people working more efficiently at scale.

As a principal on the Frontend Platform team, I supported product engineering teams with shared runtime tools, design systems, testing platforms, static analysis, and build pipelines. As important as defining what to build, I was also a consistent voice on what we should avoid building to keep our org-wide application surface area efficient and maintainable.

Key accomplishments:

- ❖ Led a re-architecture of customer behavior analytics that brought data quality, interoperability, and time-per-feature to the level required for business success.
- ❖ Created centralized frontend infrastructure tools, allowing a single frontend platform team to manage infrastructure for all customer-facing teams.
- ❖ Authored and managed complex shared UI components; led discussions with design and product to find the sweet spot between ideal design and engineering practicality. Improved UX, animation performance, and maintenance cost of business critical components.
- ❖ Built an in-house SSR platform to serve marketing and acquisition pages. The platform focused on performance and A/B testing, and was later extended to support internationalization and a self-serve marketing CMS.
- ❖ Introduced code quality tools that drove best practices across the engineering org.
- ❖ Introduced RUM performance monitoring tools and KPIs which served as a core measurement of customer-facing team success.
- ❖ Built browser and design metric tools that transformed real user metrics into requirements for engineers and designers to build to.
- ❖ Led the first frontend-focused team at Stitch fix. Provided company-wide mentorship to engineers as the organization matured in the frontend space.
- ❖ Championed responsible, risk-reduced delivery on all projects. A trusted collaborator with engineering peers and leadership in roadmapping, auditing, direction setting, and execution of business-critical, org-wide workstreams.

My areas of expertise:

- Define and execute large scale, business critical roadmaps
- Create peer relationships with cross-functional partners and leadership
- Frontend application architecture
- UI framework and design system architecture
- Build and manage shared platforms, divops, and tools
- Lead org-wide refactoring, modernization, and tech debt repayment
- Disseminate performance, accessibility, internationalization, usability, and mobile best practices
- Identify areas of opportunity and complacency
- Provide code and architecture review
- Documentation and technical writing
- Presentations, demos, mentorship, and knowledge sharing

Technologies I specialize in:

- JavaScript platform: ES Next, Node.js
- Web platform: HTML, CSS, Browser APIs
- React.js ecosystem, Next.js
- TypeScript
- Turborepo
- Continuous Integration: CircleCi, Github Actions, 3rd party integrations
- Build process: Babel, Webpack, Vite, PostCSS, SCSS, etc.
- Static analysis: ESLint, Prettier, StyleLint
- Frontend testing: Jest, RTL, Percy, browser drivers
- Ruby on Rails

Tech Lead, Senior Engineer

Casper Sleep 2016 - 2017

At Casper I co-led teams and technical initiatives during a period of rapid product and market growth.

- ❖ Partnered in roadmapping and risk assessment at the company level.
- ❖ Core contributor in Casper's internationalization and launch in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.
- ❖ Core contributor in creation and launch of Casper's design system.
- ❖ Co-led the company's move from Rails to React architecture. Led state management, internationalization, and style architecture.
- ❖ Led iterative feature development driven by data from in-house A/B testing tools and Heap analytics.
- ❖ Helped shape and mature the frontend organization. Mentored engineers, encouraged pair programming and blameless critique, and drove adoption of modern tools and patterns.
- ❖ Drove a shift in company culture to encourage cross-functional pairing between designers and frontend engineers.
- ❖ Reduced risk and complexity in systems via aggressive tech debt repayment. Removed 10% of the Casper codebase without reducing active features.

Senior Software Engineer

Think Through Learning, 2013 - 2015

I brought frontend expertise to the Rails-centric engineering organization, helping them replace their unmaintainable legacy frontends with stable and maintainable SPAs and microapps.

- ❖ Developed and maintained a suite of apps written in Backbone, Marionette, and Angular, and the Rails application that backed them.
- ❖ Decomposed JavaScript apps from a Rails monolith.
- ❖ Defined CSS and Sass architecture. Helped the team reduce a central risk by producing reliable, predictable style systems.
- ❖ Provided knowledge of modern frontend ecosystems and patterns to a previously Rails-centric team.

Web Consultant

2008 - 2013

Produced websites, CMSs, prototypes, and features for businesses including the United Way, National Geographic Magazine, and local businesses and nonprofits.

During this time I contributed to many leading-edge open source projects, including Modernizr, Yeoman, and Sass, PostCSS, Grunt.js, and gulp.js ecosystems. Until IE8 was sunsetted, my project pixrem was a core component of most build systems in the world. In the community, I organized the frontend meetup "Sassy PGH" and frequently spoke at web firms and regional meetups.