Zach Vollink

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Summary

Dynamic Frontend Engineer with over 7 years of experience in designing and developing engaging user interfaces for web applications. Proficient in HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, TypeScript, React, and other modern technologies. Adept at managing and enhancing web projects, collaborating with cross-functional teams to deliver seamless, user-friendly experiences. Strong background in graphic design, contributing to visually appealing and highly functional web solutions. Highly motivated and eager to contribute to innovative projects in a forward-thinking company.

Professional Experience

Frontend Engineer | Bitsbox Boulder, CO | November 2016 - July 2024

- **Bridged the gap between design and development**, translating wireframes into user-friendly and functional web pages in collaboration with designers, marketing, and operation leads.

- **Crafted responsive and accessible UIs** for Bitsbox and two of their key partners, STEMscopes and Highlights Kids. Leveraging HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript, I ensured a seamless experience for over 1.5 million users across any device, including 500k Bitsbox users, 50k STEMscopes students, and more than one million Highlights subscribers.

- **Delivered high-performing web experiences** utilizing Google Cloud Functions. Key achievements include automating cancellations, saving the support team 30 seconds per cancellation (~1200 man hours per year), accelerating shipment processing, dynamically serving social and SEO meta tags for Bitsbox user pages, and managing users' custom images.

- **Led project to enhance user experience and system efficiency** by merging child coding accounts with adult subscription accounts on Amazon and Cratejoy. This improved the parents' user experience dramatically by giving them more control over their kids' coding accounts, letting them have multiple child accounts under the umbrella parental account, and enabling a password reset option for kids accounts that goes to the parents email.

- **Managed data flows and external APIs** such as Google's Place Autocomplete API, to facilitate address completion at checkout. Oversaw data flow between front-end and back-end systems through data-manager scripts and Google Cloud functions.

- **Championed code quality** by conducting regular code reviews, maintaining high coding standards, and remaining passionately dedicated to continuous learning, seeking out emerging technologies, best practices, and industry trends.

GUI Developer | CU*Answers Grand Rapids, MI | May 2014 - August 2016

- **Responsible for developing and maintaining GUI panels** for core and custom screens, as well as developing XML scripts and program code to extend the base functionality of the company's core software product.

- **Worked with interdisciplinary teams** to assess client needs, determine project requirements, and iteratively develop the GUI to meet those specifications.

Projects

Skoolie Locker Rentals: Built a single-page application (SPA) using React for a local mobile locker business, leveraging Vercel for deployment, Tailwind CSS for styling, and Google Analytics for performance tracking.

EverIn: Developing an iOS/Android compatible app using React Native for recommending restaurants to friends and family. The app, still in early development, features Firebase authentication, user data management, and route handling based on authentication status.

EdTech Startup: Developing a cutting-edge web app for an emerging startup using React and Vercel. The project involves crafting intuitive UI/UX designs and seamlessly integrating with a backend API to deliver a high-performance, scalable frontend experience.

Skills

- **Languages:** HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Typescript, Python
- **Frameworks/Libraries:** React, jQuery, Sass, Tailwind CSS
- **Miscellaneous:** Google Cloud Platform, AJAX, Vercel
- **Content Management Systems:** Firebase, WordPress
- **API Integrations:** RESTful APIs
- **Tools:** VSC, Warp, Sourcetree, Figma, Adobe CC Suite
- **Project Management:** Monday, Trello, FogBugz
- **Essential Skills:** Collaboration, Problem Solving, Communication, Adaptability, Creativity

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design Northern Michigan University | Graduated 2014

Web Design Internship | La Dolce Video & Design Marquette, MI | 2013 - 2014

Zeitgeist Senior Exhibition | DeVos Art Museum NMU School of Art and Design | 2014

Awards

Eagle Scout Rank

Eagle Scout Project: Built a 12x30' deck for the Camp Roger Nature Center in Rockford, MI. Secured funding via donations for supplies, recruited and coordinated volunteers, and teamed up with the grounds manager to complete the project efficiently.

Additional Information

Volunteering: West Michigan Mountain Biking Association Trail Adopter.

Hobbies: Mountain biking, snowboarding, being outdoors, home improvements, and nerding out on new tech.