David Larsen

Senior Frontend Engineer | React · Next.js · TypeScript

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Professional Summary

Senior frontend engineer with 6 years of experience, including 3+ years as the senior-most frontend engineer, owning frontend direction without senior frontend oversight. Modernized a legacy Create React App codebase to Next.js App Router, unblocking stalled dependency upgrades, and hardened security by moving authorization into a server-side RBAC layer. Has mentored engineers, interns, and contractors, led teams as interim and formal team lead, and works across the stack in Node.js and C#/.NET when delivery demands it.

Skills

Frontend: TypeScript, JavaScript, React, Next.js (App Router), Zustand, TanStack Query, component library design, accessibility
Backend: Node.js, Express, C#/.NET, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, Redis, BullMQ
Platforms and services: Contentful, Elasticsearch, Growthbook
Architecture and security: RBAC, server-side proxy layers, framework migrations
Testing and tooling: Unit testing, Azure DevOps, Retool, GitHub Copilot, AI-assisted and agent-first development

Experience

Little Caesars Enterprises | Detroit, MI (Remote)
Senior Software Engineer (promoted from Software Engineer II, Dec 2024) · September 2022 - Present
Third-largest pizza chain in the world, operating in all 50 U.S. states and 31 countries and territories.

- Owned frontend direction for two React applications as SME and first point of contact, and served as interim team lead for one team; drove product and design decisions, sprint planning, and coordination across backend, QA, and external stakeholders
- Proposed and nearly single-handedly executed a phased migration from deprecated Create React App to Next.js, rebuilding the routing layer for the App Router and coordinating the production rollout with SRE to unblock dependency upgrades
- Re-architected authorization by moving role-based access control and API route management from client-side code into a Next.js server-side proxy layer, closing client-side security exposure
- Directed dependency and React framework upgrades across two additional platforms, cutting costs by eliminating deprecated services
- Proposed, scoped, and built a UI for a CLI tool used in DevOps operations
- Led frontend development for features across two admin platforms, including third-party product offering management that opened new revenue channels, a refund portal replacing a manual email-and-spreadsheet process, and an SMS system replacing a deprecated platform
- Architected reusable UI component patterns across admin platforms, cutting feature development and maintenance time by up to 75%, and rebuilt key components to improve usability and accessibility

- Took unit test coverage from zero to 85% in under a year, using GitHub Copilot to accelerate test authoring, reducing bugs and increasing release confidence
- Established a review process for shared AI prompts, skills, and instruction sets, enabling agent-first development on a legacy codebase
- Mentored engineers, interns, and contractors in React and TypeScript, developing junior talent by giving them full ownership of features across the development lifecycle
- Contributed to the C#/.NET backend API to unblock frontend delivery and reduce load on the backend team

FanPower (formerly PickUp) | New York, NY (Remote)
Team Lead (promoted from Software Engineer, Jan 2022) · August 2021 - September 2022
Sports fan engagement platform built on a picker game and SMS, integrated with dozens of publishing partners including USA Today and NASCAR.

- Managed two direct reports through weekly one-on-ones and annual reviews
- Defined engineering scope and supervised an Agile team building a new internal ad management platform on Node.js/Express REST APIs and React, enabling more targeted engagement through the core product
- Defined engineering scope and led full-stack development of a new admin application in Retool, streamlining content generation with 60% fewer user interactions
- Optimized React code in FanPower's flagship embeddable widget and company website, improving load times by up to 50%
- Wrote the JavaScript embed code that let partner websites host FanPower's core product while syndicating content back to FanPower's homepage, opening previously unavailable markets
- Connected homepage content to Contentful, cutting time to implement updates by up to 60%

SAFE Health Systems, Inc. | Los Angeles, CA (Remote)
Junior Software Engineer · November 2020 - August 2021
Remote diagnostic tools for physicians and patients, plus tools to help organizations manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Constructed all React UI components and a C#/.NET API backend for a natural language processing chatbot prototype, connecting it to an NLP service and integrating it with the Virtual Consult Builder
- Designed and constructed React front-end components to meet MVP for the Virtual Consult Builder project

Education

Nashville Software School - Web Development Program | Nashville, TN
Middle Tennessee State University - Bachelor of Music | Murfreesboro, TN