Andrew Watson

Senior Frontend Engineer · React · TypeScript · Accessibility · Performance

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SUMMARY

Senior frontend engineer with 20+ years building complex, data-heavy web applications in fintech, enterprise SaaS, health data, and ecommerce. Led a React Native to React web migration that cut load times by more than half, raised Lighthouse scores from under 40 to 90+, and brought a benefits platform serving millions of employees to full WCAG 2.1 AA compliance. Often the first or only frontend engineer on the team, owning architecture, performance, accessibility, and testing from design handoff to production and working directly with CTOs and product leaders.

SKILLS

Frontend	React, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, Sass, Material UI, Vite, PWAs, frontend architecture
Data & APIs	React Query (TanStack Query), REST APIs, API integration, WebSockets, Node.js
Maps & data viz	D3, Mapbox GL, MapLibre, GeoJSON, interactive mapping, dashboards
Quality	WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility, performance profiling, Lighthouse, Playwright, BrowserStack, automated testing, CI/CD
AI	Conversational AI chat interfaces with streaming responses, AI-powered recommendation UIs, AI coding agents in Cursor
Tools	Git, Figma, design systems

EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer (Frontend), SAVVI Financial Mar 2022 – Oct 2026

AI-powered benefits and financial decision-support platform. Grew from tens to thousands of employers and from tens of thousands to millions of employees during my tenure.

- Joined as the **first in-house frontend engineer**, owning SelectSmart and NextDollar, then delivered major features across the product suite, including retireSAVVI.
- Led the migration from React Native to React DOM with semantic HTML, **cutting load times by more than half** and **reducing bundle size by over 50%**.
- Raised Lighthouse scores from **under 40 to 90+** through profiling, targeted refactoring, and continuous rendering optimization.
- Brought the platform to **full WCAG 2.1 AA compliance** and added automated accessibility checks to prevent regressions across releases.
- Delivered frontend features for SAVVI's AI-powered benefits recommendations for employees and their families.
- Built test harnesses, automated suites, and BrowserStack cross-browser and device coverage for enterprise rollouts through Voya, Benefitfocus, and PlanSource.
- Partnered directly with the CTO on architecture, API integration, feature delivery, and production troubleshooting using React, TypeScript, and React Query.

Founding Frontend Engineer (part-time), U.VU Jan 2022 – Present

ExpoLife, a health-analytics platform connecting environmental exposures with health outcomes. In beta at expolife.u.vu.

- Sole frontend engineer on the founding team, building the product from the ground up with React, MapLibre, D3, React Query, and Material UI.
- Built the **conversational AI chat interface with streaming responses** that turns plain-language health questions into interactive maps, census-tract overlays, and location rankings.
- Connected chat, maps, and analytics into a single experience, and help shape product and technical direction.

Lead Frontend Engineer (contract), Snowcrash Apr 2021 – Mar 2022

- Led frontend development of a Solana digital collectibles marketplace for minting, purchasing, and resale, using Metaplex and blockchain APIs.
- Built the platform for a planned **Bob Dylan collection** developed with Wondros and the artist's management; shelved when the NFT market collapsed in 2022.

Senior Frontend Developer (contract), XY.ai Oct 2020 – Jun 2021

- Built a healthcare progressive web app for exploring COVID-19 data with GeoJSON, interactive maps, charts, and responsive layouts.

Senior Frontend Engineer, Workflow by Design Oct 2012 – Sep 2020

Enterprise SaaS that takes product packaging from creative brief to production-ready artwork for Dunkin', Welch's, Home Depot, Duracell, and Scotts.

- Owned frontend architecture for long-lived enterprise applications covering packaging production, product data, asset management, and approvals.
- Built the **next-generation web spreadsheet**, with full data management, custom forms, validation, and reporting, plus reusable patterns for advanced forms and real-time workflows.
- Contributed to the replatform of the company's legacy application.
- Translated complex operational requirements into maintainable UI with product, backend engineering, and stakeholders, and enforced design standards across web and mobile.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Web Application Developer, PixelMEDIA. Go-to developer for large ecommerce accounts. Built Demandware (Salesforce Commerce Cloud) storefronts for Perry Ellis, Pier 1 Imports, Rubik's, ECCO, and Samuel Adams; contributed responsive design, SEO, and structured data to Demandware's SiteGenesis 2.0 reference storefront and presented at a Demandware conference. Earlier full-stack work in WordPress, Drupal, and PHP.