

Benjamin Read

Senior Engineer, Technical leadership



Hi, I'm Ben, a Senior engineer specialising in JavaScript. Frontend, backend and platform engineering.

- Confident with most front end frameworks but also native web technologies
- I often work with bundlers, linters, formatters and monorepo management tools
- I've written lambdas and other backend services in JS and TS including ETLs for data streams into document stores
- I try to encourage, empower and enable the people I work with especially those I am directly responsible for

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January 2023 - present • **Senior Frontend Engineer • Asset.tv**

Sole engineer for JavaScript in an otherwise PHP team with Drupal / Laravel stacks

- Building tooling for a video platform including media player, a watchtime tracker, static sites, as well as many DOM manipulation libraries and standalone tools
- Using the Serverless framework, Docker, AWS, and other hosting platforms
- Educating and mentoring other developers in modern JavaScript syntax and APIs
- Documenting codebases, application flows and other processes

February 2022 - December 2022 • **Developer Relations • Webiny**

Primarily hired as DevRel but also took on some engineering tasks.

As Developer Relations:

- Built and promoted starter kits in trending tools (eg. NextJS) to improve conversion funnel
- Managing (with 1 colleague) a Slack community, ensuring all members feel welcomed and supported
- Built new features on the website and within the product to aid marketing and improve conversion telemetry
- Wrote blog posts and Docs pages
- Making PRs to improve product awareness on associated technology websites / GitHub pages

As Software Engineer

- Upgrades to the UI across all applications (Material Design, SASS & Emotion)
- Wrote a new configurable `<iframe>` element for the PageBuilder
- Building starter kits and POCs in React, Svelte, Vue etc

April 2021 - February 2022 • **Senior JavaScript Engineer • PurpleBricks**

- Building isomorphic NextJS (React) web applications including a chat app

- Tech lead for my team which involved reporting to senior management and colleagues, writing documentation, test cases etc.
- Pair programming & mentoring more junior developers
- Chairing in-house Frontend Performance Guild
- Giving talks & presentations to other tech institutions on behalf of Purplebricks
- Interviewing candidates
- Writing technical blog posts on behalf of Purplebricks Digital
- Other technologies I actively use daily include GraphQL, Rest APIs, TypeScript, Kubernetes, Azure, Nx, Plop.js, Cypress, Jest, Storybook etc

May 2018 - April 2021 • **Software Engineer (JavaScript) • Zopa Bank Ltd**

- Tech lead on a pre-auth website project using GatsbyJS, a React framework
- Building from scratch a statically typed app with unit, integration and end-to-end tests using react-testing-library and Cypress
- Liaison & coordination with internal & external teams on the direction, technical implementation and user impact
- Leading features eg. the adoption of a CMS to facilitate greater project scalability
- Building & continuous improvement of a React UI library
- Continually improving the testing, performance, SEO & accessibility of the app by taking regular metrics and assessing where improvements can be made
- On-call responder to incidents, developed strategies to mitigate impact
- Agile / Scrum environment using JIRA project software in a tribe-based, 2-pizza team that had between 1 and 5 developers
- Chair & Co-chair of the Frontend Guild, involved in guild strategy, direction and organisation

September 2010 - May 2018 • **Web Developer • Various**

- Implementing new features on existing code bases of multiple projects
- Building PWAs using Gatsby react framework, interfacing with APIs
- Utilising GraphQL, React and many of Gatsby's internal APIs
- Using jQuery, GreenSock and other DOM manipulation / animation libraries
- Implementing a payment gateway using Stripe in an existing codebase
- Building marketing sites using CSS, Sass, SCSS and Less and semantic HTML

(There's more on my [LinkedIn profile](#) but it's pretty boring)

Interests

- Raising my 3 children
- Languages, poetry and literature
- Blogging, teaching and mentoring
- Open source, Linux, other nerdy stuff like that