Grant Blakeman, Frontend & Backend Engineer

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Summary

Staff-level engineer with a strong product design background and deep experience building modern, scalable interfaces using React, Svelte, and TypeScript. Proven success leading design-engineering collaboration, contributing to design systems, and delivering impactful frontend tools. Comfortable working across the stack, but happiest when shipping excellent product experiences that serve business goals.

Professional Experience

Staff Design Engineer
LinkedIn
Full-time – *Nov 2021– Present*
Senior Design Engineer (Contract) – *May 2019 – Nov 2021*

- First full-time Design Engineer at LinkedIn – helped define engineering practices and culture within the Design org; trained and mentored other Design Engineers
- Built impactful internal tools, including:
    - A suite of Figma plugins that improved design-to-engineering handoff, ensured customer privacy, and closed critical gaps in LinkedIn's design workflow
    - A reusable Figma plugin boilerplate to accelerate development and prototyping new tooling ideas
- Created a Figma file linter CI tool, saving thousands of hours in engineering/design time by catching off-system errors and poor Figma file hygiene before handoff
- Prototyped GenAI features in internal tooling: quality governance, design feedback, and code generation
- Acted as a bridge between Design Systems and engineering teams to align frontend implementation with design intent

Frontend and Backend Engineer
Interdiscipline, Self-employed
Full-time – *2006 – 2021*

- Ran an independent development studio with focus on frontend engineering and product delivery
- Built modern UIs for SaaS apps, social platforms, and e-commerce businesses
- Maintained a React-based social network app solo, shipping new features and fixes post-team transition
- Built a custom CMS that served as the backbone for many clients' projects. The CMS was adaptable, extensible, and (most importantly to clients), easier to use than alternatives at the time
- Rebuilt a popular online cycling publication with major performance and infrastructure cost improvements
- Served in Fractional Technical Co-Founder and/or CTO roles for several clients in the SaaS and e-commerce spaces

Co-Founder (Leadership and Engineering)
Forge Group / Switchboard, Self-employed
2016 – 2017

- Led a volunteer-based, political action tech org; balanced leadership, hiring, and engineering responsibilities
- Practice in finding product-market fit on the right timeline – hard lessons learned

Co-Founder (Product and Frontend Engineering)
Hilite, Self-employed
2012 – 2014

- Co-created a social network for curating and sharing text snippets—part Pinterest-for-words, part link-blog
- Drove product strategy and features while collaborating on the engineering architecture
- Built out the app's frontend

Co-Founder (Frontend and Backend Engineering)
Backstage, Self-employed
2007 – 2011

- Built an e-commerce platform for indie musicians, including frontend, backend, and payment processing
- Built out a digital e-commerce system: credit card processing (Authorize.net and Braintree, pre-Stripe), PCI compliance, transactional emails, allowing band admins to manage products, issue refunds, promo codes, etc.
- Architected the service against anti-patterns: fake emails, obfuscating downloadable files on AWS with unique, time-sensitive links, etc.

Technical Skills

- **Frontend:** JavaScript/TypeScript, Svelte, React, CSS, HTML
- **Other:** Figma Plugin and REST APIs, Ruby, Ruby on Rails, AWS, Azure, Linux server management, Python and Swift/SwiftUI
- **Additional:** Design Systems, product design, and strategy

Education

University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business
Bachelor's Degree, Marketing – *2001 – 2004*

Boston University, Questrom School of Business
Coursework in General Management – *2000 – 2001*