

Robert Wierzbowski

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Austin, Texas

Frontend focused engineer and tech leader in Austin, TX

A little about me: I'm an engineer with 15+ years of experience in frontend technology and a decade in engineering leadership. I integrate technical and organizational work to solve broad problems, creating happiness and efficiency in the teams I support. My colleagues appreciate my drive to fully understand and communicate a problem space, the way I handle complex initiatives comfortably and without ego, and my emphasis on simple, practical solutions.

Recently my focus has been platform and shared tools, but I'm interested in all high level work that allows me to create a positive impact for my constituents.

Experience

Principal Frontend Platform Engineer

Stitch Fix, 2017 - 2023

As the first senior frontend hire in Stitch Fix's customer-facing division, I co-led the company's frontend modernization and maturation. My direct contribution, technical leadership and mentorship helped shape a cohesive guild of frontend specialists working more efficiently at scale.

As a core member of the Frontend Platform team, I supported product engineering teams with infrastructure that allowed them to focus on product problems: shared runtime tools, design systems, testing platforms, static analysis tools, and build pipelines. As important as defining what to build, I was also a consistent voice on what we should avoid building to keep our application surface area efficient and maintainable.

Key accomplishments:

- ❖ Directed a complete re-architecture of customer behavior analytics to bring data quality, interoperability, and time-per-feature to the level required for business success.
- ❖ Created centralized frontend infrastructure tools, allowing a single frontend platform team to manage infrastructure for all customer-facing teams.
- ❖ Built an in-house SSR platform to serve marketing and acquisition pages. The platform focused on performance and A/B testing, and was later extended to support US and UK sites and integrate a self-serve marketing CMS.
- ❖ Introduced and grew code quality tools that drove best practices across the engineering org.
- ❖ Introduced RUM performance monitoring tools and KPIs which served as a core measurement of customer-facing team success.
- ❖ Created browser support and design metric tools that transform real user metrics into explicit scopes for engineers and designers to build to.
- ❖ Provided company-wide mentorship to engineers as the organization matured in the frontend space.
- ❖ Championed responsible, risk-reduced delivery on all projects. A trusted collaborator with engineering peers and leadership in roadmapping, auditing, direction setting, and execution of business-critical, org-wide workstreams.

My areas of expertise:

- Define and execute large scale, business critical roadmaps
- Create peer relationships with cross-functional partners and leadership
- Frontend application architecture
- UI framework and design system architecture
- Build and manage shared platforms, divops, and tools
- Lead org-wide refactoring, modernization, and tech debt repayment
- Disseminate performance, accessibility, internationalization, usability, and mobile best practices
- Identify areas of opportunity and complacency
- Provide code and architecture review
- Documentation and technical writing
- Presentations, demos, mentorship, and knowledge sharing

Technologies I specialize in:

- JavaScript platform: ES Next, Node.js
- Web platform: HTML, CSS, Browser APIs
- React.js ecosystem, Next.js
- TypeScript
- Turborepo
- Continuous Integration: CircleCi, Github Actions, 3rd party integrations
- Build process: Babel, Webpack, PostCSS, SCSS, and integrations
- Static analysis and best practice automation: ESLint, Prettier, StyleLint
- Frontend testing: Jest, RTL, Percy, browser drivers
- Ruby on Rails

Tech Lead, Senior Engineer

Casper Sleep 2016 - 2017

At Casper I co-lead teams and technical initiatives during a period of rapid product and market growth.

- ❖ Partnered in roadmapping and risk assessment at the company level.
- ❖ Core contributor in Casper's internationalization and launch in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.
- ❖ Core contributor in creation and launch of Casper's design system.
- ❖ Co-lead the company's move from Rails to React architecture. Led state management, internationalization, and style architecture.
- ❖ Led iterative, data-driven feature development using A/B testing and Heap analytics.
- ❖ Helped shape and mature the frontend organization. Mentored engineers, encouraged pair programming and blameless critique, and drove adoption of modern tools and patterns.
- ❖ Drove a shift in company culture to encourage cross-functional pairing between designers and frontend engineers.
- ❖ Reduced risk and complexity in systems via aggressive tech debt prioritization and repayment. Removed 10% of the Casper codebase without reducing active features.

Senior Software Engineer

Think Through Learning, 2013 - 2015

I brought frontend expertise to TTL and provided support for open source tools the company was using that I helped create.

- ❖ Developed and maintained a suite of apps written in Backbone, Marionette, and Angular, and the Rails application that backed them.
- ❖ Decomposed JavaScript apps from a Rails monolith.
- ❖ Defined CSS and Sass architecture. Helped the team reduce a central risk by producing reliable, predictable style systems.
- ❖ Provided knowledge of modern frontend ecosystems and patterns to a previously Rails-centric team.

Web Consultant

2008 - 2013

Produced websites, CMSs, prototypes, and features for businesses including the United Way, National Geographic Magazine, and local businesses and nonprofits.

During this time I contributed to many leading-edge open source projects, including Modernizr, Yeoman, and Sass, PostCSS, Grunt.js, and gulp.js ecosystems. Until IE8 was sunsetted, my project pixrem was a core component of most build systems in the world. In the community, I organized the frontend meetup "Sassy PGH" and frequently spoke at web firms and regional meetups.