

Mike Fitzpatrick

Senior Frontend Engineer (Contract, Fractional)

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PROFILE

Frontend-focused senior software engineer specializing in stabilizing legacy UIs, reducing component duplication, and building scalable, reusable component libraries.

Experienced in rapidly joining existing codebases, cleaning up frontend architecture, and bootstrapping new UI systems with pragmatic, extensible patterns.

Demonstrated strength in improving performance, accessibility, and technical SEO through SSR and Core Web Vitals optimization, and in unblocking frontend delivery by implementing supporting backend APIs with minimal ramp-up. Comfortable joining projects at any stage, from early MVPs to mature production systems.

CORE SKILLS

Frontend: React, Next.js, Svelte.js, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, Tailwind

Component Architecture: Design systems, reusable component libraries, DRY patterns

Performance & SEO: Core Web Vitals, SSR, rendering optimization, technical SEO

Accessibility & UX: WCAG/WAI, accessibility auditing, responsive layouts, keyboard and screen reader support

Backend (Support): Node.js, Express, C#, .NET APIs

Tooling & Testing: Storybook, Playwright, Jest, CI/CD, Docker, REST, GraphQL, feature flagging

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior UI Engineer (Contract), Hightainment — 2025–Present

- Migrated an existing MVP UI from Create React App to **Next.js**, implementing **SSR** to improve **Core Web Vitals** and **SEO**
- Reduced component complexity by introducing a custom component library and design system used across the product
- Implemented **Storybook** to document and communicate the component library across the team
- Increased unit test coverage (**Jest**) from 0% to ~65%
- Audited UI components for accessibility and implemented best-in-class keyboard and screen reader support (**WAI/WCAG**)
- Added **GitHub Actions** to enforce code quality and build checks prior to merges and deployments

UI Engineer, Atlassian — 2024–2025

- Refactored and consolidated legacy React components
- Migrated team-owned components from **React 16** to **React 18**
- Standardized end-to-end testing using **Playwright**

Principal / Senior UI Engineer, CarGurus — 2016–2023

- Led **Core Web Vitals** and LCP optimization efforts across high-traffic pages, directly impacting search ranking, performance metrics, and user experience.
- Drove **SEO** experimentation at scale by partnering with product and data teams to validate rendering and UX changes through controlled testing.
- Architected shared **React** component libraries that became foundational building blocks across multiple CarGurus products.

Senior Software Engineer, Independent Consulting — 2023–Present

- Joined existing production codebases and shipped **frontend features** within the first 1–2 **weeks**, ramping quickly across **React**, **Next.js**, and **Svelte** projects
- Reduced frontend complexity by consolidating duplicated **components, styles**, and state logic into reusable, maintainable patterns
- Designed and implemented **reusable UI component systems** using **TypeScript**, accelerating feature delivery and improving long-term consistency
- Owned and delivered end-to-end features spanning frontend UI and **supporting backend APIs (Node.js, Express)** when it unblocked delivery
- Integrated third-party services including **Stripe, CMS platforms**, and analytics tooling to support product and business requirements
- Improved **accessibility (WCAG/WAI)**, **performance**, and **Core Web Vitals** through targeted audits and iterative refinement
- Implemented **feature flagging** and staged rollouts to support experimentation, user feedback, and controlled releases

Senior / Principal UI Engineer, Multiple Companies — 2010–2016

- Built and maintained large-scale web applications
- Developed reusable component libraries and design systems
- Improved frontend performance, accessibility, and SEO for high-traffic products

EDUCATION

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida — BS Studio Art, 2007

St Petersburg College, St Petersburg, Florida — AA General Studies, 2004