

James Andrew Smith

Staff Software Engineer

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Staff-level software engineer with 17 years of experience designing scalable, high-impact front-end systems at enterprise scale. Proven leader in front-end architecture, developer experience, and testing strategy. Trusted mentor across teams for building sustainable engineering practices. Speaker and contributor to the React and GraphQL communities.

- Specializes in front-end architecture, performance, and developer experience; using React.js, TypeScript, and GraphQL
- Enjoys mentoring and contributing to open source; including contributions to Gatsby and Cypress
- Co-founder of ReactATL; meetup of over 4K engineers and community members
- Delivered 7 workshops and presentations at major conferences; focused on React.js, Redux, and GraphQL
- Uses system languages C# and Node.js to build scalable, distributed systems deployed with Kubernetes, docker, and native cloud solutions

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff-level Software Engineer (L64)

Dec 2020 - present

Microsoft

Remote

Develop distributed CMS, focusing on authoring tooling and content delivery, for support.microsoft.com, Office applications, and Windows. Influential technical leadership and mentorship across 5 teams.

TypeScript, React.js, Node.js, Next.js, Redux, GraphQL, Nx, C#, microservices, Azure, TDD, XP, git, Kanban

- Architected front-end platform powering CMS systems for support.microsoft.com, Office, and Windows; serving 2B+ users and handling 1B+ requests monthly.
- Designed a scalable authoring tool to enable content onboarding for Co-pilot Labs and partner teams, accelerating Microsoft's generative AI initiative.
- Led strategic adoption of Jest and Cypress across 8 teams, increasing test coverage from 0% to 60% and cutting regression support costs by 30%.
- Consolidated microservices into a monorepo with Nx and Yarn PnP, improving CI cycle time by 95% and enhancing developer workflows.
- Created and open-sourced an AI-driven project forecasting tool, improving timeline communication to leadership by 80%.
- Championed the adoption of Extreme Programming (XP) methodologies across five teams, mentoring 20+ engineers and elevating code quality measured by a reduction in support cost.

Lead Front-End Engineer (Staff-level)

Jun 2019 - Dec 2020

Experience, LLC

Remote

Owned front-end architecture across 3 cross-functional teams. Partnered with leadership to deliver scalable user-facing platforms aligned with business goals.

TypeScript, React.js, Node.js, Redux, TDD, Jest, Cypress, Docker, microservices, AWS, git, Scrum

- Developed a React.js component library adopted by all applications, improving design consistency and feature velocity.
- Instituted 'Three Amigos' model to align product, engineering, and leadership vision; reducing planning time by 75%.
- Championed Cypress-based testing pipelines integrated with Docker-based ephemeral CI environments.
- Mentored 3 cross-functional teams on React.js, Redux, and TDD practices, fostering enhanced team productivity

Senior Software Engineer (Staff-level)
VersionOne, CollabNet

Sept 2014 - Jun 2019
Atlanta, GA (Hybrid)

Technical lead for high-profile features on flagship ALM product; including road mapping, time sheets and UI for domain-level filtering in an XP and TDD environment.

JavaScript, React.js, Redux, AngularJs, Backbone.JS, jQuery, C#, MVC.NET, Node.js, TDD, XP, gulp, git, Kanban

- Led modernization of a proprietary JavaScript front-end to ES6 and React.js across 5 teams, reducing tech debt by 30%.
- Built and maintained an OSS React component library and JavaScript SDK used internally and by Fortune 500 customers.
- Served as technical advisor for front-end architecture and tooling strategy across 2 products and 5 teams.

Senior Software Engineer
MATRIX Professional Services

Feb 2013 - Sept 2014
Atlanta, GA (Hybrid)

Focused on full-stack development using C#, JavaScript, React, and TDD for major clients.

C#, MVC.NET, Node.js, JavaScript, React.js, jQuery, KnockoutJS, TDD, Jasmine, Karma, MSTest, Scrum, grunt, git

- Delivered a redesigned e-commerce checkout for a major client, reducing steps by 50% and improving conversion rates
- Led React.js adoption across teams; created onboarding curriculum and mentored 7+ engineers
- Implemented CI-ready test frameworks (Jasmine, Mocha, Karma) integrated with Gulp/Grunt; reducing defects by ~60%.

EARLIER ROLES

Software Engineer - MModal	Sept 2012 - Feb 2013
Web Application Developer - Response Mine Interactive	Mar 2012 - Sept 2012
Senior Software Engineer - DAXKO	Aug 2011 - Mar 2012
Software Engineer 3 - MedSEEK	Feb 2011 - Aug 2011
Software Engineer 3 - Intermark Interactive	Jan 2010 - Feb 2011
Adjunct Faculty - Columbus Technical College	Jun 2008 - Dec 2009

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	Jun 2008
Columbus State University	Columbus, GA