Zachary J. Tapocik

FRONT-END DEVELOPER & UX-Driven engineer

# Pittsburgh, PA | (412) 913-7529 | ocean@outlook.lv | https://houndslight.online

# Summary

Front-End Engineer with a UX mindset, experienced in building component-driven systems, conducting usability testing, and delivering production-ready React applications. Skilled in translating wireframes and design systems into responsive, accessible, and high-performing interfaces. Strong track record of improving onboarding flows, optimizing performance, and aligning visual design with user needs.

# Experience

**UI/UX Engineer (Contract) | Harborview Software
July 2024 – October 2024**

* Designed and coded a modern SaaS dashboard interface in **React**, integrating with APIs and state management.
* **Led usability testing** sessions, identified friction points in the onboarding flow, and implemented UI/UX refinements that increased task completion rates.
* Partnered with product managers to **translate wireframes into production-ready interfaces**, ensuring consistent component use and responsive layouts.
* Delivered **accessibility improvements** (keyboard navigation, contrast ratios) aligned with WCAG standards.

**Front-End Engineering Intern | ClearView Apps
May 2021 – August 2021**

* Converted **design mockups into reusable UI components** using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
* Assisted senior developers with **responsive design breakpoints** and mobile-first layouts.
* Supported **accessibility testing**, fixing color contrast and ARIA issues.
* Collaborated with designers to align brand guidelines with front-end implementation.

**Front-End Developer & UX Engineer | Freelance / Upwork
January 2020 – Present**

* Built **responsive, accessible interfaces** with React, Vue, and Next.js that balanced visual design with usability.
* Created **component-based design systems** that standardized UI across projects and sped up iteration cycles.
* Conducted **client discovery sessions** and translated user feedback into wireframes, prototypes, and front-end deliverables.
* Optimized performance (bundle size, lazy loading, state management) to improve **page load times and user satisfaction**.
* **Delivered end-to-end projects: from **wireframe sketches and usability heuristics** to final production code.**

# Education

## Community College of Allegheny County 2025 – 2027 (expected)

Software Engineering

## McKeesport Area Senior High School 2014 – 2018

High School Diploma

# Certifications

**Meta Front-End Developer Professional Certificate **– Issued 2025****

**IBM – Introduction to DevOps – Issued 2025**

**Microsoft – Introduction to Azure Cloud Services – Issued 2025**

# Projects

**BankUX**

* Developed a **banking UI component library** with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, prioritizing clarity, reusability, and responsive layouts.
* Applied **UX heuristics** to information hierarchy, ensuring quick scan-ability and improved task flow for end users.
* Documented **design decisions, accessibility audits, and UI patterns** to make the system repeatable across future banking features.

**job-tracker**

* Built a **full CRUD job application tracker** with authentication, persistence, and dashboard UI.
* Designed intuitive flows for **onboarding, job entry, and dashboard overview** to reduce friction during use.
* Added **micro-interactions and clear feedback states** (loading indicators, error handling) to improve usability.
* Conducted **informal user testing** with peers to refine workflows before final build.

**nextMove (Open Source)**

* Co-created a **privacy-first job tracking app** in Rust with a React front-end.
* Focused on **UI/UX responsiveness, error handling, and navigation clarity** to make heavy backend logic accessible to end users.
* Documented **design rationale** and conducted peer feedback cycles to refine usability.

**Lucky Shrub Landing Page (Meta Certificate)**

* **Built a responsive landing page as part of Meta’s Front-End Developer program.**
* **Focused on grid-based layouts, mobile-first responsiveness, and accessibility testing.**
* **Served as a polished, portfolio-ready example of applying best practices in visual hierarchy and typography.**