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.**