Christopher Watson

Senior Front-End Engineer · Angular · React · TypeScript

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior front-end engineer with 20+ years building enterprise SaaS in Angular (10–20), React, TypeScript and Node.js. Recent work includes a real-time network topology map at Disney, React and AG-Grid dashboards on PwC's global tax platform, and an enterprise Web Components design system at TruStage. Strong on accessibility (WCAG 2.1), performance and legacy modernization, including AngularJS to Angular and legacy to React rewrites. Technical lead and mentor on front-end teams since 2017.

CORE SKILLS

Frameworks	Angular 10–20 · React · Redux · Node.js · AngularJS · Ember.js · Backbone.js · .NET
Languages	TypeScript · JavaScript (ES6+) · HTML5 · CSS3 · C# · PHP
UI and data	AG-Grid · Web Components · WebSockets · REST APIs · GraphQL · OAuth / SSO
Accessibility	WCAG 2.1 · ARIA · Keyboard navigation
Testing and build	Playwright · Jest · Vitest · Jasmine · Mocha · NUnit · Vite · Webpack
Cloud and DevOps	AWS · Docker · Kubernetes · Jenkins · Git · CI/CD pipelines
Databases	MongoDB · PostgreSQL · SQL Server

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Design Systems Engineer Lead, UI (Contract) Jun 2026 – Nov 2026

TruStage · Madison, WI (Remote)

- Owned architecture and governance for Ascend Awesome, TruStage's enterprise Web Components design system used across products, partner portals and public sites.
- Set component standards, release processes and versioning, moved the system toward design tokens and multi-framework support, and built Figma-to-code consistency tooling to keep design and code in step.
- Enforced WCAG, security and performance requirements at the platform level, reducing duplicated UI work across teams.

Senior Software Engineer, UI (Contract) Nov 2025 – May 2026

The Walt Disney Company · Orlando, FL

- Built a System Map component in the Apex platform that shows real-time health of every connected device on the network.
- Designed the graph algorithm that parses device responses and maps each node's upstream and downstream position.
- Rendered leader lines between devices from downstream references, so operators can trace dependencies at a glance.
- Delivered a file uploader, OAuth authentication flow and WebSocket live data feed.

Senior Software Engineer, UI (Contract) May 2024 – Jun 2025

PwC · Tampa, FL (Remote)

- Led front-end development on Sightline, PwC's global SaaS tax platform, owning React component architecture and dashboard modules used by enterprise clients worldwide.
- Migrated legacy tables to AG-Grid, cutting render time and improving data handling on complex financial datasets.
- Delivered WCAG 2.1 improvements, including ARIA labeling and keyboard navigation across core workflows.
- Scoped and shipped features with backend, product and UX teams on a recurring sprint cadence.

Senior Software Engineer, UI/UX (Contract) May 2022 – Jan 2024
AutoNation · Fort Lauderdale, FL (Remote)

- Re-architected an internal dealership SaaS platform in React, improving performance and replacing a legacy codebase.
- Built Chrome extension sales tools for CarGurus, AutoTrader and Craigslist with in-browser VDP overlays and lead capture.
- Built an Appointment Services Dashboard that centralized service-call troubleshooting and cut lookup time for service advisors.
- Implemented SSO across multiple internal platforms, removing redundant login flows.

Senior Software Engineer, UI/UX (Contract) Nov 2021 – May 2022
Global Tel-Link · Falls Church, VA (Remote)

- Full-stack Angular and Node.js development on a multi-tenant SaaS tablet platform, including REST APIs and microservices.

Software Developer, UI/UX (Contract) May 2021 – Dec 2021
Allscripts · Remote

- Shipped Ember.js features and fixed high-priority production bugs on a healthcare SaaS platform; owned NUnit testing and Jenkins CI/CD integration.

Senior Software Engineer, UI/UX (Contract) Aug 2019 – May 2021
Walt Disney World · Lake Buena Vista, FL

- Led the rewrite of an internal park-operations app from AngularJS to Angular 10.
- Built three Angular apps using guest geolocation data for real-time forecasting, scheduling and spatial visualization.
- Engineered heatmaps and multi-polygon map rendering across Destination, Area, Land and Location tiers.
- Added DNM XML editing so non-technical staff could manage spatial area definitions.

Senior Software Engineer III, Lead Oct 2017 – Jun 2019
Wyndham Destinations · Orlando, FL

- Built multi-site React and Node.js applications for internal and external users.
- Introduced Docker for local development, speeding onboarding and keeping environments consistent.
- Mentored the front-end team and ran Agile sprints as technical lead.
- Reverse-engineered end-of-life software and delivered a modernization roadmap.

Earlier Experience 2002 – 2017

- **AutoNation** (2016–2017): React/Redux dealership sales tool with Angular print and email modules; led front-end architecture.
- **Queralyze** (2014–2016): Architected and built a SaaS ed-tech platform in React, Node.js and MongoDB with Canvas LMS integration.
- **WedWu** (2012–2014): Architected and built a SaaS name-your-price platform in PHP, Node.js and MySQL.
- **Sysco, ENSR/AECOM, JM Family, ION Television** (2002–2012): Web platforms, custom CMS builds and brand systems across 30 sites.

FREELANCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Owner / President Sep 1996 – Present
WatsonInk LLC · Windermere, FL

- Run an independent web design and development consultancy for 30 years, delivering SaaS apps, e-commerce platforms and custom CMS builds for 30+ clients.
- Delivered full-stack Node.js and REST API builds, responsive front ends, and integrations with Facebook, Twitter and PayPal.

EDUCATION

BS, Graphic Design · Art Institute of Pittsburgh · 2005
AS, Web Design & Development · Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale · 2011
AS, Visual Communications · Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale · 1996