

TLDR;

 ancient, I know

I've been in the industry for 16 years, and during that time, I haven't exactly followed the traditional career trajectory. I've been lucky enough to have worked on many interesting projects that have shaped my approach to projects. There's something incredibly satisfying about tackling challenges, especially when I can see my solutions' tangible impact on businesses and their users. I enjoy working with startups. They have unique challenges that spark my creativity, and I thrive in small teams where I know my contributions can make a significant difference. I work with some clients as a Fractional CTO because there is a big gap between non-technical founders and hiring a developer to build a product. It's all about bringing that co-founder mindset to the table, where I can translate business challenges into effective tech solutions, assemble talented teams, and implement best practices that I've honed over the years. I can't list all of the projects that I've worked on, but if you ask me about a project, I've probably worked on something similar.

Some things I think are noteworthy

- Completed a project in 3 months when the original dev estimated 12+ months
- Built a mapping platform to save lives
- Growing an e-commerce site to \$60k sales/month
- Building and leading a team to redevelop an app and generate a 650% increase in users over 9 months
- Leading a team to redevelop an app that averages 500k monthly users
- Building an HR system that lead to a \$100k saving per year

My tech stack

Typescript with React and Node.js. I usually use Next.js and Nest.js together.

Front end - React (Next.js or Astro)

Back end - Node.js (Nest.js)

Database - Postgres or Mongo

Hosting - AWS

Infrastructure - Pulumi or Terraform with Docker.

Project management - Jira or Linear

 I prefer Linear but most people still use Jira

Honourable mentions

Laravel, Wordpress, React Native, Vue.js, GCP and Azure, Mapbox, ESRI, Leaflet, JQuery

that was a very long time ago. 

Jaye Clissold

Experience

Fractional CTO: March 2020 -

When I work with clients, I work in the same capacity as a technical co-founder by closing the gap between the business and what can be achieved with technology. My day-to-day could be anything from building complex systems and system architecture to hiring and running teams. I use my years of experience with diverse tech stacks and architectures to drive product development by creating scalable solutions for specific business needs. By doing this, I can help my clients mitigate potential inefficiencies, reduce tech debt, and build clean, scalable solutions. My contributions strengthen the technological backbone of businesses, leading to informed decision-making and fostering overall growth.

Responsibilities include:

- Building and architecting complex systems
- Hiring and leading development teams
- Developing scalable solutions for specific business requirements
- Aligning technology strategies with business goals
- Providing technical guidance and mentorship
- Managing budgets and timelines for technical projects
- Liaising between technical teams and stakeholders
- Overseeing DevOps practices and cloud infrastructure
- Conducting technology assessments and recommending improvements

Clients include: RNTR, Storekat, Choice Aged Care, Focus, Starts at 60, Admission.com.au, OpenCourse, Iceberg, GCG

Tech: Next.js, Nest.js, AWS, Pulumi, Typescript, Docker

Front end developer @ WooliesX: September 2024 - November 2024

I was part of a team that developed a platform enabling early education centres to plan meals and order ingredients. The current system was built on Angular and is undergoing a significant rebuild to integrate React, which we used as a headless server. My role involved integrating React with the Angular system, allowing us to leverage React's capabilities while maintaining the existing infrastructure.

Responsibilities included:

- Integrating React into the existing Angular framework
- Collaborating with cross-functional teams to enhance platform features
- Implementing complex state management solutions to work across frameworks
- Optimising application performance and scalability
- Participating in code reviews and Agile ceremonies

Tech: Next.js, Angular, Typescript, Docker

Team: 6 people

Technical director @ VMLY&R: February 2019 - March 2020

I led the team for the international marketing agency to deliver custom websites for a range of clients, including government departments, universities, and banks. We utilised Laravel and WordPress for backend development and Vue.js for the front end. I would oversee the entire development process, collaborating closely with clients to understand their needs and ensuring our solutions integrated seamlessly with their marketing campaigns. Our work reinforced the agency's reputation for delivering high-quality, comprehensive services.

Responsibilities included:

- Planning and writing proposals and tenders
- Mentoring team members
- Managing and maintaining AWS infrastructure
- Managing resources and workflow with upper management
- Keeping up to date with tech trends to pitch ideas to clients
- Overseeing project delivery and ensuring quality standards
- Collaborating with clients to understand their technical needs
- Implementing Agile methodologies within the team

Tech: Javascript, Vuejs, AWS, Agile Methodologies, PHP, Jira, Project Management, Laravel

Team: 6 people

CTO @ Pennybox: March 2018 - March 2019

By implementing effective planning and communication strategies - using Jira for project management and daily stand-ups on Slack - we developed an app that increased user engagement by 650% over nine months. I also set up automated testing, ensuring the team met milestones and maintained high-quality standards.

Responsibilities included:

- Planning and documenting business processes
- Hiring team members
- Developing the product roadmap
- Planning and running sprints and managing developers
- Managing app releases through the app store
- Setting up testing frameworks for automated testing
- Ensuring the team is meeting milestones

Tech: Javascript, React, React Native, Lambda, AWS, API Development, Agile Methodologies, Node.js, Jira, Project Management, MongoDB

Team: 5 people

Front end developer @ Code for Australia: September 2023 - June 2024

At Code for Australia, I led the redevelopment of a critical mapping application for the CSIRO that tracks and predicts smoke from bushfires- a tool designed to save lives. The original Angular app had become unwieldy, so we rebuilt it using Next.js to leverage server-side capabilities. I architected the new platform, implementing Next.js with Mapbox for the front end and Strapi for the CMS and user authentication. We used NextAuth JWT for authentication and managed the state with React Context. I also set up GitHub Actions as a DevOps pipeline to handle deployments. The revamped application allows users to log in, add layers to the map, save their preferences, and use their data to make informed decisions about smoke behaviour.

Responsibilities included:

- Solution architecture
- Rebuilding the frontend using Next.js
- Implementing user authentication and data persistence with Strapi
- Collaborating with data scientists and working with the R API
- Setting up infrastructure using Terraform and Ansible
- Ensuring the application met performance and accessibility standards
- Setting up DevOps pipelines

Tech: Next.js, Strapi, Mapbox, R, Terraform, Ansible

Team: 4 people

Lead developer @ OneLifeClub: March 2023 - August 2023

I handled all technical aspects of the business while managing an eight-person team split between internal and offshore members. We designed a system capable of supporting significant growth with an ambitious expansion into the US market. Leveraging my expertise, we built a system adaptable to rapid changes while maintaining high performance. This involved coordinating across time zones, ensuring clear communication, and aligning the team's efforts with the company's strategic goals.

Responsibilities included:

- Managing and mentoring an eight-person development team
- Designing and architecting a scalable system for rapid growth
- Coordinating development efforts across time zones
- Overseeing system performance and optimisation
- Aligning technical strategies with business objectives
- Implementing DevOps practices for efficient deployment
- Facilitating communication between stakeholders and the technical team
- Planning sprints and managing project timelines

Tech: Next.js, Strapi, Pulumi, AWS, Docker

Team: 8 people

Lead developer @ NSW Department of Finance: February 2017 - June 2018

I developed a platform designed to render geospatial data for New South Wales. It provided real-time data, live traffic, public transport and official government datasets. Working with multiple companies was challenging, but our team consistently delivered. We built a scalable platform using Dojo, ESRI, and jQuery. I regularly presented progress to C-level executives to align with their vision.

Responsibilities included:

- Designing and developing UI concepts
- Ensuring app meets accessibility standards
- Using Bitbucket server as source control
- Presenting to C Level executives
- Performing code reviews and team leadership

Tech: HTML/CSS, Javascript, Node.js, React, Dojo, API Development, Esri, MongoDB, AWS, Bitbucket, Jira, Agile Methodologies

Team: 5 people

Owner @ Clarus Computers: June 2015 - January 2018

In this role, I primarily used Wordpress for building websites or Laravel and Jquery or Vue.js for building web apps. Being my own business, a lot of my work involved project and stakeholder management, as well as the day-to-day activities involved in running a business. I had to learn to develop excellent time management to ensure I could meet and exceed all customer expectations while still running the day-to-day business.

Responsibilities included:

- All aspects of running a business
- Project and time management
- Designing and developing Wordpress themes
- Working with clients to create a plan for their website or app

Tech: HTML/CSS, Javascript, MySQL, Jquery PHP, Wordpress, Laravel, Vue.js

Senior developer @ Fairfax Media: September 2010 - July 2015

Tech: HTML/CSS, Javascript, Coldfusion, PHP, Jquery, MySQL

Team: 2 people

Front end developer @ 2 Creative Media: September 2008 - February 2010

Tech: HTML/CSS, Javascript, Jquery, MySQL