

Ron Mesard

Front-End Software Engineer

PROFILE

Highly motivated Software Engineer with extensive experience in front-end development, accessibility compliance, and technical problem-solving. Proven ability to lead projects, mentor team members, and deliver exceptional results in fast-paced environments.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Front-End Developer, GroupeConnect; Oct 2012 - June 2024

- Spearheaded accessibility initiatives, project oversight, compliance training, cross-capability collaboration, and client communication.
 - Implemented use of Axe, WAVE, Lighthouse and Developer Tools browser extensions by developers to check their work in progress.
 - Expanded support from desktop screen readers (JAWS, NVDA) to include mobile (VoiceOver, TalkBack).
 - Actively participated in client meetings via Zoom, WebEx, Teams.
- Served as technical lead and accessibility Subject Matter Expert (SME) in an agency of over 300 engineers, designers, and quality assurance testers.
 - Hosted and actively participated in multiple internal Teams channels to provide on-demand recommendations and problem-solving.
 - Discovered and documented the unique quirks and limitations of screen reader applications that were previously misconstrued as defective behavior.
 - Directly involved in accessibility-related design, development, and testing decision-making.
- Guided the implementation of accessibility best practices across the company's portfolio, ensuring websites were compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2. Mentored and trained team members on accessibility guidelines and techniques. Initiatives and presentations included:
 - Promoted awareness of and adherence to P.O.U.R. (Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust) principles.
 - Emphasized use of semantic HTML5 coding, minimize use of aria and role markup, and champion Progressive Enhancement approach to design and front-end development.
 - Identified accessibility issues with 3rd-party widget integrations (chat, survey, video player, shopping cart, carousel), devised solutions to work-around their shortcomings, and recommended remediation steps to escalate to the vendor.
 - Retrofitted legacy websites with responsive, mobile-friendly, accessible updates.

- Created accessibility-oriented code review checklist.

Senior Front-End Developer, Digitas Health; Sep 2010 - Sep 2012

- Front-end and back-end website development on AEM content management platform for a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical client.
- Worked closely with international development, design, and QA teams.

Senior Front-End Developer, Elephant Ventures; Sep 2005 - Aug 2010

- Engaged in all aspects of website development, e-commerce, and marketing email campaigns for multiple clients in a fast-paced startup environment.

Tech Support Lead / Usability Engineer / Senior Software Engineer, Delphi Internet Services / Prospero Technologies; Jun 1995 - Aug 2005

Hybrid UX, web developer, DBA role, in support of a nascent IIS/ASP.NET web-based message board and chat platform.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Brandeis University, Waltham MA

SKILLS

- **Development:** All aspects of front-end website development and content publishing: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Node, Adobe Creative Suite, Adobe Target, AEM CMS, Drupal CMS, Wordpress, PHP, MySQL
- **Accessibility:** Comprehensive understanding of accessibility-oriented standards, design, testing, and development: ADA, WCAG 2.2, screen reader usage, defect identification and remediation, risk assessment and mitigation
- **Collaborative:** Agile methodology, JIRA, Confluence, Workfront, Basecamp, Teams, Slack. Critical thinking and problem solving