

Josh Wootonn

A design engineer looking for a product-focused role on a consumer-facing product - [github](#) - [twitter](#) - [website](#)

Product Engineer — *Makeswift*

Jan 2022 – Now

Makeswift is a customizable website builder. You can map React component props to controls in Makeswift to visually edit a Next.js site. It was acquired by Bigcommerce in Nov 2023. I was the third employee.

- Created the latest [RichText](#) control, upgrading [Slate.js](#) by 50 pre-v1 minor versions, and rewriting our list rich text plugin
- Created the [Style Group](#) and [IconRadioGroup](#) controls
- Created the [Smartling](#) integration that translates pages while preserving rich text styling
- Created the [cmdk URL bar](#) for navigating between pages and locales
- Created the layers panel, which mirrors hover and selection indication and syncs scroll position
- Wrote a [CI action](#) that tracks bundle size across PRs and used it to decrease route bundles by 50 to 70%
- Led the upgrade of our file manager with multi-select, inline editing, fuzzy search, and drag selection
- Led the integration with [Schematic](#) for package management and diverse usage metering
- Led the migrations to Github, to Nest.js GraphQL, to GraphQL.tada, and to Next.js App router

When I didn't understand something, I researched it, wrote about it until I understood it well enough to explain it, and then back-populated those findings into our product. Here are the resulting blogs on [performant sidebar animations](#), [multi-step popovers](#), and [drag selection](#).

Frontend Engineer — *Clearcover*

Jan 2021 – Jan 2022

Clearcover is a late-stage insurance startup in Chicago. I worked on the self-service signup @ [app.clearcover.com](#).

Software Engineer — *Digital Diagnostics*

Sep 2017 – Jan 2021

Digital Diagnostics had the first FDA-approved diagnostic software. I worked on the team that brought this to market.

- Prototyped a modern version of IDx-DR, which went on to become our primary product offering
- Iterated designs in Figma and implemented these in Electron / React
- Mentored three engineers and spread ownership on a backend-heavy team

Side projects

42colors — *Pixel art editor*

Sep 2024 – Now

- Created a pixel art editor in Elixir, Canvas API, and PostgreSQL
- Created a [file system](#) binary cache so that pixels on the infinite canvas load in under 200ms
- Implemented cursor relative zooming that works for mice and trackpads
- Added real-time collaboration with Phoenix channels

Type the Word — *Typing practice tool*

Oct 2023 – Now

- Created a typing practice tool with UX similar to [monkeytype.com](#) for typing through the Bible
- Grew the community to *450 users* who have typed *200k total verses*
- Maintained a [monthly newsletter](#) connecting users, announcing new features, and sharing bug fixes
- [Rewrote next-theme](#) to support custom dark and light themes while still supporting a system option
- Created the [UX for tracking your progress](#), which 2 users have used to type the entire Bible (31k verses)

Illustration — *Isometric scenes*

Oct 2021 – July 2022

- Spent 250+ hours illustrating 40+ scenes from my life and imagination

Time Track — *Time keeping tool*

Mar 2016 – Apr 2024

- Created the time tracking app that 100 employees use every day at All American Concrete Inc
- Developed an initial version with Qt, C++, and MySQL that was used from 2016 to 2018
- Created a second version using Electron, React, Node, and MySQL for better analytics and UX

Education

University of Iowa — *Computer Engineering*

Aug 2015 – May 2019