

James Worwood

Senior / Lead Frontend Engineer — TypeScript, React, Next.js, React Native & Expo

Based in

Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Phone

07423 333 148

Email

james@worwood.co.uk

Site

jamesworwood.london

I'm a senior and lead frontend engineer with **12+ years** of experience building web and mobile products. I work mainly with TypeScript, React, Next.js, React Native and Expo, and I stay hands-on from the first technical decisions through to release and production support. I'm at my best when a product needs someone to make the architecture workable, solve difficult integration problems and help a team ship reliable software.

Selected impact

PRODUCT DELIVERY

Led the frontend delivery and rollout of Nandoca, now used by **approximately 15,000** restaurant colleagues across the UK and Ireland.

CROSS-PLATFORM PRODUCTS

Led legal analytics for Slaughter and May, then led a bespoke React Native and Expo platform designed for use across web, tablet and mobile.

ENTERPRISE MODERNISATION

Worked across a **25-application microfrontend migration** involving **five international teams**, with primary responsibility for five applications. Built **two new applications** with **minimum 80% unit test coverage** enforced in CI.

TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Led frontend, backend and data specialists; set engineering and testing standards, interviewed developers, mentored junior engineers and recovered projects that had fallen behind.

Core skills

FRONTEND

TypeScript, JavaScript, React, Next.js, Angular, Vue, React Native Web, HTML, CSS, SSR/SSG, App Router, React Server Components, Tailwind CSS / NativeWind and Bootstrap

ARCHITECTURE & UI

Turborepo, microfrontends, Single-SPA, Module Federation, component libraries, design systems, Storybook, Unistyles, ECharts, accessibility and performance profiling

TESTING & QUALITY

Jest, React Native Testing Library, Vitest, Cypress and Maestro. Independent projects: Playwright E2E. Personal/prototype: Detox and offline synchronisation

LEADERSHIP

Technical direction, architecture, pull-request and testing standards, mentoring, interviewing and cross-team delivery; project tracking and regular stakeholder updates on team progress, milestones and delivery timelines.

MOBILE

React Native, Expo, Reanimated, EAS Build/Submit/Update, development builds, prebuild/config plugins, New Architecture upgrades, Swift/Kotlin native modules, store submissions, staged releases and OTA rollback

DATA & INTEGRATION

Java, REST, GraphQL, Hono; backend-for-frontend (BFF), TanStack Query (React Query), Redux Toolkit, Zustand, Zod, Okta, GetStream, LaunchDarkly and Firebase Cloud Messaging

DELIVERY & RELIABILITY

GitHub Actions, Fastlane, Jenkins, Docker, Kubernetes, Sentry, Crashlytics, LogRocket and release management

AI engineering

APPLIED AI — INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

RAG, hybrid retrieval, embeddings, reranking, document ingestion/OCR and knowledge graphs.

AI-ASSISTED DEVELOPMENT

Claude, Codex and Cursor; agentic coding workflows, repository guidance, AI-assisted code review and testing automation.

Recent experience

- **Nando's** Aug 2025 – Present
Lead Frontend Engineer | Contract
 - Led the **end-to-end frontend architecture** and delivery of Nandoca, completing the employee experience product and its rollout to **approximately 15,000** restaurant colleagues across the UK and Ireland.
 - Delivered the main colleague experience: a user-generated news feed, direct messaging, work groups and profile personalisation.
 - Re-architected the TypeScript React Native and Expo application into a Turborepo monorepo, adding a Hono backend-for-frontend and a reusable Unistyles component library.
 - Replaced GetStream's default interface with a custom product experience while retaining its feed and messaging services; owned the Okta and LaunchDarkly integrations.
 - Set frontend and testing standards across a team of typically five to seven people and helped lead the team's adoption of Claude through shared CLAUDE.md guidance and repeatable engineering workflows.
- **Confidential Legal Technology Client** Feb 2024 – Feb 2025
Lead Frontend Engineer | Contract
 - Joined to lead the development and delivery of a React and Next.js legal case-cost analytics platform for Slaughter and May.
 - Turned complex financial breakdowns into clear, interactive ECharts visualisations and built the reusable frontend components needed around them.
 - After the first product was completed, stayed on to lead a new bespoke platform intended for wider law-firm use, built with React Native and Expo across web, tablet and mobile.
 - Created a custom component library and complex charting and interface components with Unistyles, with accessibility and runtime performance treated as part of the implementation rather than later fixes.
 - Led day-to-day delivery across a multidisciplinary team of typically five to seven frontend and backend engineers and data scientists, improved the Jira workflow and introduced clearer pull-request and testing standards.
 - Tracked delivery against project milestones and deadlines, keeping stakeholders informed through regular updates on team progress and release timelines.
 - Interviewed frontend and backend candidates and helped set the technical direction, team shape and delivery approach for the new product.

Enterprise & mobile delivery

- **EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)** Nov 2021 – Jul 2023
Senior Frontend Engineer | Contract
 - Helped re-architect an estate of 25 Angular microfrontend applications from Single-SPA to Module Federation across **five international teams**.
 - Contributed upgrades and code changes to every application in the estate, with primary responsibility for five applications owned by my team.
 - Built two new microfrontend applications. Both maintained a **minimum 80% unit test coverage** threshold enforced by CI gates, and I also contributed to the CI setup.
 - Upgraded applications to Angular 16 and extended the shared component library used across the wider platform.
 - Added Cypress end-to-end tests to the build pipeline, resolved Jenkins and ingress problems and supported coordinated releases across teams.
- **Collision Management Systems / Samba Safety** Oct 2021 – Apr 2023
Senior Frontend Engineer | Part-time contract
 - Traced missing and broken data models through the Java backend as well as the React and Vue frontends, then moved on to new features within the microfrontend platform.
 - Worked on the fleet reporting product used to turn vehicle data into useful operational reports for business customers.
 - **Led CLARA**, a React Native and Expo application that helped drivers plan safer routes by avoiding areas associated with collisions and hard braking.
 - Implemented React Query, AsyncStorage persistence, React Navigation, real-time location and Firebase push notifications. Improved rendering and background processing and used Flipper and React DevTools for debugging.
 - Defined API contracts and data-fetching patterns with backend engineers, built iOS and Android pipelines with Fastlane and GitHub Actions, added Jest and React Native Testing Library coverage and mentored junior developers.
 - Kept stakeholders and engineering teams aligned through regular project updates, tracking development progress and communicating release schedules and expected delivery dates.

Selected independent projects

● Caisey — AI legal case workspace

Independent project

- Built a Next.js case workspace covering documents, chronology, knowledge graphs and source-cited chat, backed by NestJS and shared Zod API contracts.
- Implemented hybrid RAG combining vector, full-text and paragraph/clause retrieval with reciprocal rank fusion and LLM reranking.
- Separated ingestion into a pg-boss worker with document-aware chunking and selective OCR; configured Playwright E2E and cross-user authorisation tests in GitHub Actions.

Stack: TypeScript, Next.js, NestJS/Fastify, PostgreSQL/pgvector, Supabase, Drizzle, OpenAI, pg-boss.

● Patch Feed — Mobile social app and moderation console

Independent project

- Built custom React Native and Expo feed and messaging interfaces on Stream APIs, including attachments, voice notes, shared Unistyles components and Storybook.
- Built a React and Vite staff console for reports, blocklists and audited account suspension, backed by Supabase Edge Functions and PostgreSQL row-level security.
- Integrated Storyblok with the feed through HMAC-verified webhooks and stable activity identifiers for idempotent updates.

Stack: TypeScript, React Native, Expo, Stream, Unistyles, Vite, Supabase, Deno, Storyblok, Turborepo.

Product demonstrations and technical architecture walkthroughs available on request.

Earlier experience

● Vashi

May 2021 – Aug 2021

Senior Frontend Engineer | Contract

- Took over an Angular greenfield rewrite from a third-party consultancy, owning frontend infrastructure and feature work, repairing Webpack build profiles and supporting defect investigation with the business.

● Gama Aviation

Aug 2020 – May 2021

Senior Frontend Engineer | Permanent

- Delivered Angular features and production support for aircraft maintenance, crew and flight-hours tracking, including new or wrapped DevExtreme components, and helped build a React Native invoicing proof of concept.

● MYHSM

Feb 2020 – Aug 2020

Senior Frontend Engineer | Contract

- Built Angular customer-facing features for a secure-transaction portal, integrated Laravel REST services through production release and started a React Native mobile analytics proof of concept.

● Medscheme

Oct 2017 – Oct 2019

Full-stack Developer | Contract

- Recovered delayed Angular and Spring Boot products, rebuilt call-centre and master-data applications, and led CI/CD and DevOps delivery across Bitbucket, Jenkins, Docker and Kubernetes.

● Standard Bank

Apr 2017 – Oct 2017

Full-stack Developer | Contract

- Integrated National Lottery REST services into the bank's USSD platform and coordinated releases through testing sign-off, CAB presentation, production deployment and final approval.

● Wesbank

Sep 2014 – Mar 2017

Full-stack Developer | Contract

- Developed and supported an e-commerce ADF and Java EE platform, helped rebuild it with JSF, Bootstrap and modular SOAP services, exposed services to FNB, and delivered Jenkins pipelines and repository migrations.

Qualifications & education

Bachelor of Information Technology — Monash University — 2014 — Application Development & Networking

Oracle Certified Associate — Java SE 8 Programmer (OCAJP)

Diploma in Software Engineering — 2012