

Chris Dorward

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Open Source GitHub repo showing current work with NX° github.com/goldlabelapps/nx

Fullstack AI & Agentic Coder

Deep expertise in React and TypeScript, currently specialising in Next.js. 20+ years delivering scalable web applications for startups, enterprises, and remote-first teams across the UK, Europe, Australia & beyond. Experienced in Agentic Coding and AI-assisted software development, including Google Antigravity, alongside Python backend development and AI/LLM prompt engineering. Bridging modern frontend engineering, intelligent backend systems, and AI-driven development workflows.

Skills

Core Development

TypeScript, JavaScript (ES6+), React, Next.js (App Router), Node.js, Python

AI & Agentic Development

Agentic Coding, AI-assisted software development, LLM integration, prompt engineering, OpenAI and other AI APIs, Google Antigravity, AI-enabled application development

Frontend & UI

React Native, Redux, Tailwind CSS, Material UI, CSS, Styled Components, Figma, Progressive Web Apps (PWA), Data Visualisation (D3.js, Chart.js, Recharts)

Backend & APIs

Node.js, FastAPI, Express, REST APIs, GraphQL, Serverless architectures, API design and integration

Databases & Data

Firebase / Firestore, DynamoDB, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQL, NoSQL

Cloud & Infrastructure

AWS (Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, S3, ECS), Vercel, Netlify, Render, Docker, Firebase

Testing & Quality

Jest, React Testing Library, Automated Testing, BDD, Gherkin, Code Reviews

DevOps & Development Workflow

Git, GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, GitHub Actions, CI/CD, Turborepo, Webpack, Agile / Scrum, Jira, Confluence

CMS & Content Platforms

Headless CMS, Strapi, Contentful, WordPress, Drupal

PHP

Longstanding PHP experience, particularly WordPress, Drupal and Magento, including MVC architectures and Composer-based development

Experience

Principal Engineer — askleida.com

May 2026 to Aug 2026

End-to-end engineering for Leida MVP, an AI-powered platform helping solo skin therapists generate personalized homecare recommendations in minutes.

Architecture, product delivery, and production operations across Next.js, TypeScript, API development, and payments.

- AI-assisted recommendation workflows
- Supabase-backed data and secure server-side APIs
- Stripe checkout and webhook integrations
- Performance, reliability, and release quality improvements

Fullstack developer with Next JS & Python — EchoPay

Contract — Jan 2026 to May 2026

- Developed a B2B product ordering platform using Python (FastAPI) backend and EchoPay payment integration, supporting CSV product management and real-time order updates
- Designed and deployed secure, scalable APIs for orders, customer history, and admin dashboards
- Built the frontend on my own NX Next.js platform, decoupled from Python backend services
- Managed production deployment on Render.com, including authentication, webhook handling, and operational reliability

Independent Software Developer — Freelance & R&D

Remote — May 2025 to Dec 2025

Operating as an independent developer across a mix of paid freelance work, open-source product development, and deep technical upskilling, with a strong focus on AI-assisted delivery and modern Next.js architecture.

- Delivered freelance client work alongside internal projects, including bespoke frontend and full-stack builds, applying production standards across code quality, performance, and maintainability.
- Built and evolved Goldlabel, an open-source Next.js platform used as a real-world testbed for architecture, tooling, and workflow design.
- Deep research into AI-assisted software development, developing practical, repeatable techniques that materially accelerate delivery without compromising quality.
- Designed and deployed ring-fenced local LLM environments (Ollama, phi-3), integrating them into real Next.js workflows and extending automation with Python tooling

- Now applying this accelerated workflow to larger, more complex deliverables, even infrastructure-heavy and legacy-adjacent systems such as Magento plugins.

Frontend Developer — VU.CITY contract
London / Hybrid — Apr 2024 to May 2025

Leading the development of internal tools and the Admin Portal using Next.js (App Router), Firebase Auth, and Firestore
Architecting a modular frontend platform to power multiple apps with a shared design system based on MUI
Building event-driven interfaces that integrate with external systems, including AWS and internal APIs
Championing best practices across accessibility, performance, and developer experience
Supporting wider digital twin product strategy with tooling, documentation, and UI infrastructure

Full Stack JavaScript Developer — Dtrackt!
Malta — Jun 2021 to Feb 2024

Worked closely with the CTO as part of a lean, cross-functional team
Delivered high-performance static and PWA sites using Gatsby (Node + React)
Integrated Headless CMS platforms like Contentful and Strapi
Used Material UI Design System across all frontends for consistent UX
Also served as Scrum Master when needed, facilitating agile delivery

Product Lead — Wanngi
Brisbane, Australia — Jun 2020 to Nov 2020

Led the redevelopment of a legacy Angular PWA into a new React-based platform with , Supabase
Architected and implemented core framework features using custom open-source tooling
Oversaw a small engineering team and coordinated cross-functional delivery

Senior Frontend Developer — Codeworx
Brisbane, Australia — Sep 2019 to Feb 2020

Migrated a legacy poker app from CoffeeScript/jQuery to a modern React-based PWA and React Native App
Refactored critical UI flows to improve maintainability and performance
Delivered incremental improvements while maintaining stability for existing users

Senior Frontend Developer — Rexlabs
Brisbane, Australia — Mar 2019 to Aug 2019

Supported transition from legacy PHP/Knockout stack to a React/Redux frontend
Contributed to modularizing the UI and improving developer experience
Mentored junior developers during migration sprints

React Developer — Boral

Contract

Sydney, Australia — Aug 2018 to Feb 2019 (Contract)

- Built foundational test architecture using Cucumber, Gherkin, and BDD principles
- Developed and tested multiple React PWAs with AWS Amplify and GraphQL
- Enabled CI/CD workflows to support rapid feature deployment

Senior Frontend Developer — Canon Australia

Contract

Sydney, Australia — Mar 2018 to Aug 2018 (Contract)

- Led frontend development of a full-featured Progressive Web App from scratch
- Architected state management with Redux and persistent store
- Integrated multiple SaaS APIs and delivered UX enhancements across devices

Frontend Engineer — Aligent Consulting

Adelaide, Australia — Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

- Developed and maintained frontend themes for high-traffic Magento e-commerce sites
- Created custom JavaScript (ES6) modules to enhance user experience, including complex checkout flows
- Built commercial-grade Progressive Web Apps (PWAs) in React for mobile-first performance
- Worked closely with design and backend teams to deliver polished, conversion-optimized user interfaces

Fullstack Developer — usTwo

Contract

Sydney, Australia — Jan 2017 to Feb 2017 (Contract)

- Lead developer for the Cancer Council NSW's [Healthy Lunchbox](#) app
- Built a React frontend connected to a WordPress CMS via the new REST API
- Developed custom PHP endpoints and WordPress plugins
- Used modern tooling including ES6, Webpack, and GitFlow

Front End Software Engineer — Alcidion

Adelaide, Australia — Aug 2016 to Nov 2016 (Contract)

- Built frontend interfaces for a real-time hospital bed management system using React and Redux
- Worked in a tight-knit, fast-paced SCRUM team delivering critical medical software
- Focused on performance, usability, and reliability in a healthcare context

Contract JavaScript Developer — Huawei

Shenzhen, China — Feb 2016 to May 2016

- Built an isomorphic JavaScript project management app using React and Node.js
- Worked within a small, agile development team
- Contributed to localisation efforts for Chinese-language users
- Gained hands-on experience in a Chinese corporate environment

Contract JavaScript Developer — The Changing Workplace

London — Sep 2015 to Jan 2016

- Contributed to a large-scale SaaS platform for facilities management
- Developed frontend JavaScript applications handling complex, high-volume datasets
- Consumed RESTful APIs and collaborated across backend and QA teams
- Enterprise clients included Microsoft and General Electric

Self-Employed Web Developer — Listingslab

Remote / Global — Jul 2007 to Jul 2015

- Ran a solo consultancy delivering full-stack web development
- Specialized in WordPress Multisite, custom plugins, and responsive theme design
- Built mobile-first UIs using HTML5, CSS3, and jQuery
- Worked with distributed teams using GitHub and agile workflows

Senior Developer — Velo//

London — Oct 2010 to Dec 2011

- Developed WordPress Multisite solutions with custom modules and themes
- Delivered frontend and backend features using Flash and PHP/MySQL
- Contributed to multi-client campaign execution

Lead Product Developer — FMG

London — Nov 2005 to Dec 2006

- Designed and launched Ceros, a Flash-based digital publishing platform
- Developed the product prototype and backend integrations
- Platform sold commercially since 2006

Senior Systems Developer — IG Index

London — Oct 2003 to Nov 2005

- Lead Flash developer in the in-house creative team
- Migrated frontend systems to a third-generation Flash platform
- Produced digital campaigns, partner sites, and marketing assets

Early Career

(1999–2004)

Held a series of Flash and web development roles during the peak of the Flash era, contributing to frontend systems across finance, gaming, media, and publishing.

Highlights include:

- Cantor Fitzgerald (2002–2003): Systems Developer on trading UIs
- Eurobet (2002): Senior Flash Developer for online gaming
- Pearson Broadband (2002–2003): Flash Developer for education delivery
- Kyunet, Sydney (2001–2002): Senior Web Developer during dotcom boom
- KPE London (2000–2001): Flash Developer for rich media campaigns
- 4MAT / Aspinalls (1999): Early work in casino and recruitment web apps

Education

BSc Psychology

Newcastle University, UK — 1999

A Levels: Maths, Physics, Chemistry

Woodbridge School, Suffolk — 1994

GCSEs: 10 Subjects

Including English, Maths, and Science

Spoken Languages

- English: Native
- German: Fluent — bilingual upbringing, partial schooling in Germany
- French: Conversational

Work Eligibility

UK & German passports, full work eligibility in UK and EU

Recommendations

Yui Andoh, Software Engineer

November 2020

Chris quickly understood business needs and identified technical problems soon after joining the team. His approach for tackling core issues was innovative and well-designed, and his solution made it so much easier for developers to maintain the app, and also for users to have better experiences using it. Not only is he a highly skilled full-stack developer, but also a reliable instructor/team leader that led the team with lots of support. The experience of working with him was full of wit and mind-blowing learning.