

Darren Lester

Dundee, UK

darren@darrenlester.com

linkedin.com/in/darren-lester

github.com/darren-lester

Career Break

02/25 - Present

Taking some time out - working on my health and fitness; spending time with family; delving into my interests; travelling the world; professional development

Partnerize

Engineering Manager. remote, UK

11/22 - 02/25

- Managed 9 engineers in total, 3-5 at once
- Onboarded 3 engineers
- Devised new branching and release strategy, eliminating costly merge conflicts and enabling more frequent releases
- Managed and contributed to a technical debt project to upgrade our key front end dependencies
- Front end feature development

Stockopedia

10/21 - 11/22

Senior Front End Engineer. remote, UK

Worked on the Growth team to grow subscriber base and revenue, focusing on SEO and performance of Stockopedia's marketing site

(TypeScript, React, Next.js, NestJS, Search Console, Google Tag Manager, Google Optimize)

- Detailed page load performance analysis and improvements. Improving our core web vitals ranking improved our average number of impressions of Good Page Experience URLs from <1k per day to 14k on mobile and <10k per day to 404k on desktop
- Extensively cleaned up our search engine indexing - cleaned up redirects, noindexed relevant pages, corrected canonical links, disavowed spam links
- Migrated main marketing site pages to Next.js
- Created new landing pages
- A/B experiments with different data exposure and UI elements
- Updated the UI for critical pages

Partnerize

Senior Front End Software Engineer. remote, UK

08/20 - 10/21

Front End Software Engineer. Newcastle, UK

08/19 - 08/20

Worked on the front end of Partnerize's analytics features

(React, Redux, TypeScript, Storybook, Jest, React Testing Library, Cypress, Storybook, GitLab)

- Ownership of front end testing - lead an initiative for front end integration testing to reduce reliance on expensive Selenium tests and reduce our CI/deploy times
 - setup and maintenance of testing tooling and utilities
 - wrote testing guidelines
 - knowledge sharing of Jest, React Testing Library and testing best practices
 - management of flaky tests - detection, triage, delegation, fixing
- Contributed to hiring - reviewed CVs, devised technical interview questions on React, CSS and testing, held 30+ interviews and coding tasks, input to hiring decisions
- Assisted with onboarding of new engineers

- Performance audit and optimisation - reduced render time of reports by 60% via optimising network requests, eliminating unnecessary renders, optimising CSS in JS
- Contributed to React component library

Findmypast

05/18 - 08/19

Software Development Engineer. Dundee, UK

Full-stack development of family tree web application across several microservices (React, Styled Components, Node.js, GraphQL, Go, AWS, Kubernetes)

- Agile, Pair programming, TDD, trunk-based development and continuous deployment
- Mentored intern for 3 months
- Presented regularly on web development topics at team knowledge sharing sessions
- Regularly demoed new features to the wider company
- Decreased rendering time by 80% via Chrome dev tools performance profiling

Dundee Satellite Receiving Station, University of Dundee

01/16 - 03/18

Software Systems Specialist. Dundee, UK

Full stack web development, system administration and user support (JavaScript, jQuery, HTML, CSS, PHP, C, Apache)

Space Technology Centre, University of Dundee

11/14 - 01/16

Software Developer. Dundee, UK

Development of the [PANGU](#) v4 simulation software for the European Space Agency (C++, Java)

Education

MSc Applied Computing (with Distinction), University of Dundee

2013 - 2014

BSc Physics (First Class Honours), University of Dundee

2009 - 2013

Certifications

Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2

2015

Personal Projects

[Furigana Toggle](#) - Browser extension for aiding Japanese reading practice. ~3k users

[Japanese Translator Bot](#) - Facebook Messenger Chat bot using Node.js. 1k+ monthly users

[Greta's Poetry](#) - PWA of my grandmother's poetry

[Kana](#) - Android app for basic Japanese character reference. 1k+ installs

Tools

Git, GitHub, GitLab, Docker, Kubernetes, Graylog, Prometheus, Grafana, LaunchDarkly, Google Analytics, Search Console, BrowserStack, Puppeteer

Hobbies

Investing, fitness, guitar, Japanese, anime, travel, cooking