

# Martin Burford - Front-End Developer

[martin@martinburford.co.uk](mailto:martin@martinburford.co.uk) | [View my LinkedIn profile](#) (140 recommendations)

## Useful links

- [My online portfolio](#)
- [View recommendations of my work from past colleagues](#)
- [View a large collection of code samples from previous projects](#)

## About Me

I started coding professionally in 1999, and have a deep passion for beautifully crafted web interfaces. My approach to work is always the same. I am driven by working with nice, smart people. I'm incredibly passionate about how the mechanics and visuals of a website work together in harmony, resulting in a stunning user experience. Yes, I code React, HTML, JavaScript (ES6), Node, React, SASS, Typescript etc in every contract, but my true passion is in building the very best UI a website can have, with whatever technologies are required to do the job. Couple this with an obsessive side to my personality where I continually strive for the cleanest, most extendable and robust code possible. I work hard to ensure I only ever leave companies with code that I myself would be happy to inherit. If you wish to discuss potential contract roles with me, then please do get in touch.

## Currently coding with (as of April 2025)

HTML: <i>26 years</i>	JSON: <i>22 years</i>	Redux: <i>6 years</i>
CSS: <i>26 years</i>	Responsive: <i>20 years</i>	Storybook: <i>6 years</i>
JavaScript: <i>25 years</i>	Sass: <i>12 years</i>	TypeScript: <i>5 years</i>
AJAX / XHR: <i>22 years</i>	Node JS: <i>10 years</i>	NextJS: <i>4 years 1 month</i>
RESTful API: <i>22 years</i>	React: <i>6 years</i>	

I have of course been exposed to countless other technologies, many very recently, and others going back a few years:

.net Core	Chai	Grunt	Mermaid JS	Rollup
AG Grid	Chromatic	Gulp	Mocha	Sharepoint
AM charts	Cypress	Heatmaps	Next Auth	Sinon
Ant Design	Enzyme	Icomoon	NPM	Snapshot testing
Apollo	ES6	Jade	Phantom JS	SPFX
Async / Await	Escenic	Jasmine	PHP	Styled components
Axios	Express JS	Jest	Post CSS	Styleguidist
Azure Devops	Fetch	JQuery	Pug	Vercel
Babel	Flexbox	Karma	Puppeteer	Webpack
BEM	Github	Less	Pusher JS	Websockets
Bootstrap	Google Maps	Lottie JS	React Hook Form	Yarn
Browserify	GraphQL	Lo-dash	Redux Toolkit	

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## **Lead React Developer: Frieze**

April 2024 - April 2025

## **Role responsibilities**

- I was hired to lead the re-architecture and subsequent re-building of the front-end of 3x Frieze sites.
- Due to the nature of shared (along with site-specific) components, Turborepo was the perfect tool for the job.
- An extremely comprehensive component library was created, consisting of around 100 React / TypeScript / Sass front-end components.
- The front-end pulled data from 3x unique Drupal instances, in order to allow a fully headless set of websites to be created.
- The websites were built in such a way whereby components, scripts, styles along with general configuration could be globally shared, along with local overrides wherever required.
- The sites were also coded to work with i18n, as 1x of the 3x sites had to support multi-lingual translations

## **Technologies used**

Async / Await, CSS, Contentful, Cypress, Drupal, ES6, Flexbox, Github, Google Maps, Heroku, HTML, i18n, JavaScript, JSON, Lo-dash, Next JS, NPM, React, React Context, React Hook Form, React hooks, Responsive, Sass (modules), Storybook, SwiperJS, Turborepo, TypeScript

## **Recommendation from Kaveri Khaneja, Software Developer @ Frieze**

I had the pleasure of working closely with Martin during the development of three brand new content based websites at Frieze, and I can confidently say that he is one of the most skilled Frontend Developers I've worked with. As a Lead Frontend Developer, Martin brought a depth of knowledge and expertise in HTML, CSS and React to the team. His approach in building clean, scalable and reusable components became the foundation for our shared component library across the three sites and a maintainable codebase. He approached problems with a proactive mindset, always thinking ahead and suggesting thoughtful improvements. He also brought a collaborative spirit to the table with his willingness to mentor others on the team, and sharing knowledge generously. Martin is a highly capable and detail-oriented Frontend Developer and any team would be lucky to have him. Highly recommended!

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## **Lead React Developer: Alex Howard Group**

July 2024 - September 2024

## **Role responsibilities**

- Alex Howard were wanting to bring the development of their suite of websites in-house, having outsourced the work for the past few years.
- The long-term wishes of the business were to have permanent team members to work on this.
- I however had a past working relationship with one of the members of the leadership team, and was asked to build the foundations of a project re-platform whilst the permanent hires were sourced.
- I therefore spent 3 full months (albeit on a part-time basis) working on building a completely new front-end design system, with extensive documentation for the (yet to be hired) team members.
- As part of this work, a comprehensive mechanism was built to support light and dark modes across all sites in the Alex Howard group.

## **Technologies used**

CSS, ES6, Flexbox, Github, HTML, JavaScript, JSON, Next JS, NPM, React, React hooks, Responsive, Sass (modules), Storybook, SwiperJS, TypeScript

### **Recommendation from Danny Bull, Chief Technical Officer @ Alex Howard Group**

Martin is one of those rare developers who know and love their craft and is very, very good at it. He built us a front-end framework (from scratch) that is truly mobile friendly, incredibly performant, adaptable, and which will take us in to the next stages of our growth and beyond. One of the best developers I've worked with in 25 years. He also happens to be easy to work with and can lead a team with grace and ease. If you get a chance to hire Martin, you should hire Martin.

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## **Lead React Developer: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**

December 2023 - April 2024

### **Role responsibilities**

- I led all aspects of the front-end development of a project which required an existing Sharepoint instance (consisting of over 1,500 sites) to be completely re-skinned.
- I built a comprehensive set of React components, using Sass and TypeScript, which were then published as a component library to a privately scoped NPM package.
- This was then imported into Sharepoint, and via SPFX, was used to create custom Sharepoint Webparts, which ultimately led to having a largely headless Sharepoint instance to play with.
- The project was a huge success, as it allowed what had become an ageing (Sharepoint) intranet from the past few years to be given a new lease of life.

### **Technologies used**

Azure DevOps, Babel, CSS, ES6, Flexbox, HTML, JavaScript, NPM, React, React hooks, Responsive, Rollup, Sass (modules), Sharepoint, SPFX, Storybook, TypeScript, Yarn

### **Recommendation from John O' Grady, M365 & Sharepoint Architect @ Freshfields**

Martin is an exceptional Developer - I had the pleasure of working alongside him on an Intranet project, where we aimed to create a highly customized user interface for a client using React & SharePoint. Martins ingenious approach allowed us to seamlessly integrate custom React components with SharePoint graph data.

Throughout the project, Martins attention to detail, professionalism and deep knowledge of Web Development played a pivotal role. Working with Martin was an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

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## **Front-End Developer: Personal portfolio**

September 2023 - December 2023

### **Role responsibilities**

- Whilst I was looking for work in late 2023, I decided to be productive alongside job-hunting, by re-writing my portfolio for the first time in 7 years. It's often the case that a Developers (particularly a Front-End Developers) website is never that representative of what they do for work. So I thought it was the perfect time to give things a refresh and a complete overhaul.

### **Technologies used**

AM Charts, Async / Await, ES6, Fetch, Flexbox, JSON, Lo-dash, Next JS, NPM, React, React Context, React hooks, Responsive, Sass (modules), Storybook, TypeScript, Vercel

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## Other roles

Besides my most recent 4 roles (as above), I have worked in many other companies, on a contract basis more recently, but also in permanent positions at the start of my career:

Company	Role	From	To	Url
Aigence	Senior React Developer	Sep 2022	Aug 2023	<a href="#">View</a>
Deals Plus	Senior React Developer	Feb 2022	Sep 2022	<a href="#">View</a>
Live Area	Front-End Architect	Mar 2021	Feb 2022	<a href="#">View</a>
Zellar	Senior React / Redux Developer	Feb 2020	Mar 2021	<a href="#">View</a>
Hi Mum Said Dad	Senior React Developer	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	<a href="#">View</a>
Somo Global	React Developer	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	<a href="#">View</a>
Rehab	React / Redux Developer	Sep 2019	Sep 2019	<a href="#">View</a>
Lloyds Bank	Creative Technologist / React Developer	Jan 2019	Jul 2019	<a href="#">View</a>
Biglight	Senior Front-End Developer	May 2018	Oct 2018	<a href="#">View</a>
Tangent	Senior Front-End Developer	Jan 2018	Mar 2018	<a href="#">View</a>
Bond and Coyne	Senior Front-End Developer	Aug 2017	Nov 2017	<a href="#">View</a>
HSBC	Lead Web Developer	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	<a href="#">View</a>
Sapient Nitro	Senior Front-End Developer	Dec 2016	Dec 2016	<a href="#">View</a>
Trinity Mirror	Senior Front-End Developer	Aug 2015	Nov 2016	<a href="#">View</a>
Barclays	Lead UI Developer	Aug 2014	Aug 2015	<a href="#">View</a>
Trinity Mirror	Senior Front-End Developer	Jul 2013	Aug 2014	<a href="#">View</a>
VML	Senior Interactive Developer	Mar 2013	July 2013	<a href="#">View</a>
Profero	Senior Front-End Developer	Dec 2012	Mar 2013	<a href="#">View</a>
Engine Group	Senior Front-End Developer	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	<a href="#">View</a>
Ogilvy	Senior Front-End Developer	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	<a href="#">View</a>
The Mill	Front-End Technical Lead	May 2012	Jul 2012	<a href="#">View</a>
Digitas LBi	Lead Internet Engineer	Dec 2011	Mar 2012	<a href="#">View</a>
AKQA	Senior Web Developer	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	<a href="#">View</a>
Timeout	Lead Front-End Engineer	Jul 2011	Oct 2011	<a href="#">View</a>
Tribal DDB	Senior JavaScript Engineer	May 2011	Jun 2011	<a href="#">View</a>
Publicis	Senior JavaScript Engineer	Jan 2011	May 2011	<a href="#">View</a>
Wunderman	Senior JavaScript Engineer	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	N/a
RGA	Senior Developer	Oct 2010	Dec 2010	<a href="#">View</a>
Digitas LBi	Senior JavaScript Engineer	Aug 2010	Sep 2010	<a href="#">View</a>

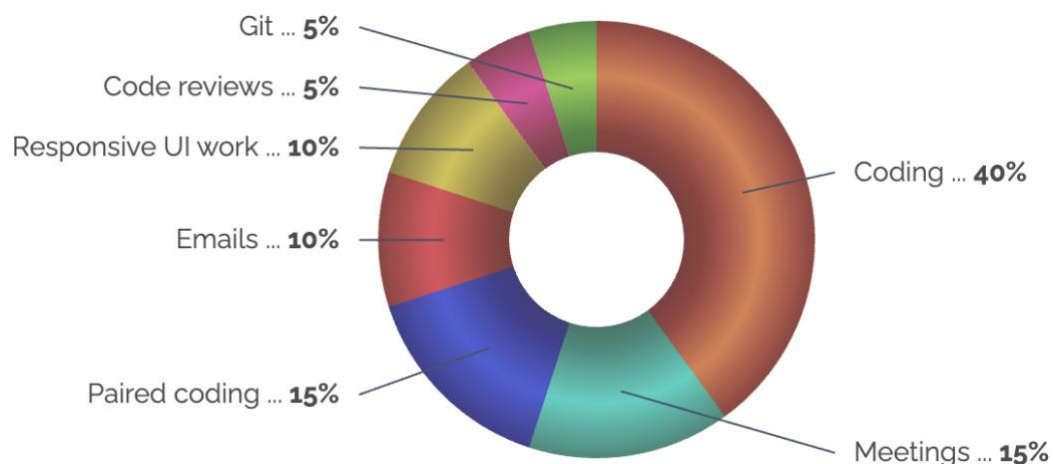
Sapient Nitro	Lead Internet Engineer	May 2010	Jun 2010	<a href="#">View</a>
Digitas LBi	Lead Internet Engineer	Dec 2009	May 2010	<a href="#">View</a>
VML	Senior Interactive Developer	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	N/a
Autoquake	Lead Client-side Developer	Aug 2009	Nob 2009	<a href="#">View</a>
Euro RSCG	Chief Technical Architect	Feb 2009	April 2009	N/a
Futurebrand	PHP Developer	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	N/a
Full Six	Technical Director	Sep 2008	Jan 2009	N/a
Digitas LBi	Principle Software Engineer	Sep 2004	Aug 2008	<a href="#">View</a>
Volt Europe	Trainee Developer	Jun 2001	Jun 2002	N/a

## **Higher Education**

BSc Hons (2:1) in Internet Technology - Staffordshire University, September 1997 - June 2001

## **A typical work day**

Whilst every role I work in varies hugely in how I spend my time from one day to the next, there are a number of things I do which broadly are expected of me wherever I work. This diagram shows how these may typically be spread across a working day.



Please note that in addition to these, I am also often found working on all of the below when required:

- Building prototypes / concepts
- Documentation
- Mentoring Junior Developers
- Spiking new technologies / solutions
- Upskilling / cross-training
- Working closely with Visual Designers and UX to help fine tune project specifics
- Working with management to help plan projects