

Martin Burford - Front-End Developer

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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 July 2025)

HTML: *26 years*

JSON: *22 years*

Redux: *6 years*

CSS: *26 years*

Responsive: *20 years*

Storybook: *6 years*

JavaScript: *25 years*

Sass: *12 years*

TypeScript: *5 years*

AJAX / XHR: *22 years*

Node JS: *10 years*

NextJS: *4 years 1 month*

RESTful API: *22 years*

React: *6 years*

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	

Lead React Developer: RiskBase

April 2025 - July 2025

Role responsibilities

- RiskBase hired me for 3 months, to help setup and start the re-development of their Engage platform.
- I worked single handedly, creating a fully responsive Next.js, React, TypeScript, Tailwind project.
- The UI was a complex data capture site, requiring extensive react-hook-form integration.
- Additionally, TanStack Query was used for all API data consumption and mutation logic.
- A large number of elements of the project were written as feature toggles, controllable by environment variables. Two examples of this were mock data (pre-population) techniques and React guard logic.

Technologies used

Async / Await, CircleCI, ES6, Flexbox, Github, Google Maps, HTML, JavaScript, Lo-dash, Lottie JS, Next JS, NPM, React, React Context, React Hook Form, React hooks, React Toastify, Responsive, Storybook, Tailwind, TanStack Query, TypeScript

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 Will Tomlinson, Senior Web Developer @ Frieze

Martin is, without a doubt, one of the most talented developers I've had the pleasure of working with. His depth of knowledge and experience was absolutely invaluable - the project wouldn't have succeeded without his contributions. Martin brought a huge number of ideas, not just about how to approach problems, but just as importantly, how not to. His attention to detail and drive for perfection were exemplary. I learned a lot from working with him and hope to have the opportunity to work with him again in the future.

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 out-sourced 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.

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.

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

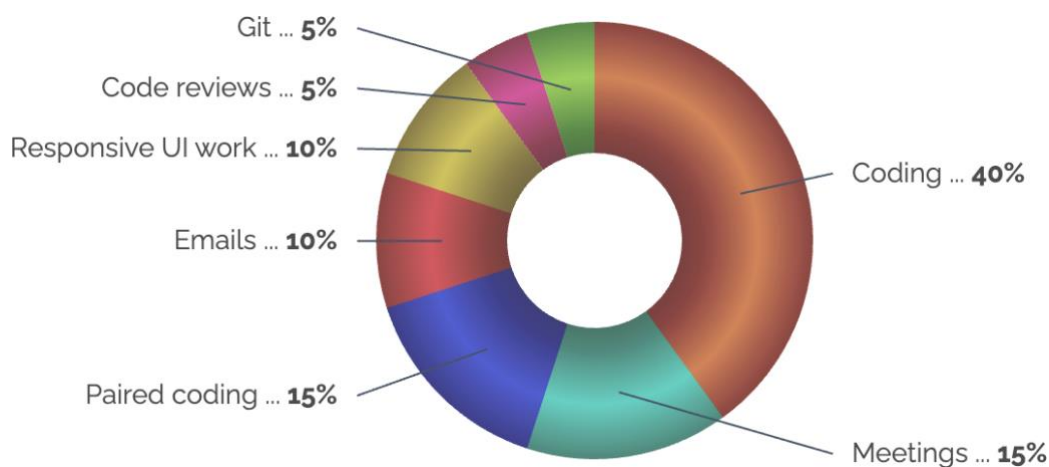
Digitas LBi	Senior JavaScript Engineer	Aug 2010	Sep 2010	View
Sapient Nitro	Lead Internet Engineer	May 2010	Jun 2010	View
Digitas LBi	Lead Internet Engineer	Dec 2009	May 2010	View
VML	Senior Interactive Developer	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	N/a
Autoquake	Lead Client-side Developer	Aug 2009	Nob 2009	View
Euro RSCG	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	View
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