D. James Poer

Senior UX Engineer | Front-End Architect

Comprehensive career résumé

Port Charlotte, Florida | Remote

317-402-9786 | djamespoer@djamespoer.com

djamespoer.com | linkedin.com/in/djamespoer | github.com/mentalnote74

Professional profile

Senior UX engineer and front-end architect translating complex business rules, user needs, and technical constraints into usable software. Experience spans enterprise insurance, government licensing and regulation, public education, automotive retail, and independent product development.

Brings design and implementation together: interaction design, research, front-end architecture, accessibility, prototyping, and collaboration with business analysts and engineers. Identifies when a problem needs a better workflow, a reusable component, or a simpler implementation rather than more code.

Current independent work combines Angular and modern React 19 development, interactive 3D, AI product design, and human-directed AI delivery. Owns product decisions, requirements, architectural direction, review, and acceptance while using AI agents for implementation and other defined tasks.

Current independent product work

djamespoer.com | UX Engineer and Front-End Architect

October 2026 to present | Remote

Own product direction and technical architecture for a production Angular 22 application that serves as a portfolio, case-study platform, and environment for developing new product ideas.

- Define the application structure using standalone Angular, lazy routing, TypeScript, signals and computed state, dependency injection, reusable components, and Sass.
- Design shared navigation, page layouts, case-study structures, carousels, and data displays with a deliberately small dependency footprint.
- Build accessibility into the architecture through semantic structure, skip navigation, labelled navigation, a single main landmark, keyboard access, focus behavior, and readable contrast.
- Design an accessible Smart Grid around native table semantics, typed columns, custom cell templates, stable row identity, pagination, loading states, and status messages. Adapt mobile rows into cards after testing exposed a failure on physical hardware.
- Develop a reusable procedural visual system and time-of-day themes while treating responsive behavior, contrast, performance, and maintainability as design constraints.
- Connect portfolio topics to dedicated routes and pair work history with case studies so readers can distinguish what happened from the reasoning and outcomes behind it.
- Operate the product with Git/GitHub, Jira, Cloudflare, analytics, SEO, and production telemetry. Use focused component tests, axe, Lighthouse, device checks, and deployment evidence to assess releases.
- Develop a Product Journal and Daily Scrum Brief history, separating editorial interpretation from automated development measurements. Diagnose publication failures across GitHub automation and Cloudflare configuration.

Shady White Van | React and interactive 3D project

2026 independent project | shadywhitevan.rocks

- Develop the site with modern React 19 and TypeScript, using Vite 8 for development and production builds.
- Implement a Three.js WebGL van showroom with GLB/glTF model loading and Draco loader support.
- Present responsive poster images before the 3D stage loads, start the stage near the viewport after the page settles, and provide a pause/resume rotation control.
- Configure Cloudflare Workers Static Assets hosting and the custom domain.

Thingamajob | Career-intelligence product

Product design and development

Design a reusable career-intelligence platform that connects documented experience with job evaluation and tailored résumé generation.

- Define a separate Library of Truth, evidence history, preferences, conversations, evaluations, and generated materials for each client within a shared product architecture.
- Design source ingestion so trusted career records accumulate rather than disappear when a shorter résumé leaves them out. Preserve provenance without multiplying duplicate facts.
- Design correction and supersession workflows that retain the original record and review history. Validate replacement behavior so an accepted correction supersedes its original, while a rejected correction leaves the original active.
- Define canonical queries that exclude rejected, superseded, historical-only, and private-only material from downstream career output.
- Design the sequence from factual career records to job evaluation and job-specific résumé generation: the job description controls relevance and emphasis; the Library of Truth controls factual boundaries.
- Define client onboarding and identity flows, including a short-lived verification-code approach, and interfaces with the separate operational job-search workflow.

Buildometer | Project dashboard design

Product and UX exploration

- Design a high-fidelity dashboard that makes project progress, delivery activity, scope change, deployments, and defect history understandable in one place.
- Explore percent complete, velocity, throughput, burndown, completed and remaining stories, and bug lifecycle measures, including time from detection to resolution.
- Refine metric definitions and visualization choices as the product develops, retaining the reasoning behind rejected approaches as case-study material.

Human-directed AI development

- Define distinct agent responsibilities, shared specifications, and handoffs; reconcile recommendations, control scope, and review results before acceptance.
- Use Jira, branches and worktrees, code review, tests, and release evidence to connect agent work with a traceable delivery process.
- Evaluate practical limitations including context loss, redundant testing, scope drift, rework, and supervision effort. Apply those findings to improve task boundaries and preserve human decision-making.

Professional experience

EXL LifePRO | Senior Web Designer, Lead Assistant Manager

October 2019 to April 2023 | Indianapolis, Indiana

Provided UX design, front-end engineering, and accessibility guidance for LifePRO Web, an enterprise policy-administration platform for life, annuity, and health insurance. Joined through Vaco and converted to full-time EXL employment in October 2020.

- Designed approximately 40% of the screens and workflows in versions 20 and 21, working within the established product design system.
- Partnered with business analysts and product owners to translate insurance workflows, operational needs, business rules, and regulatory constraints into interface designs. Built interactive high-fidelity prototypes in Justinmind with analyst and stakeholder input.
- Led major Section 508 remediation across a large Angular application. Corrected systemic accessibility defects with roughly 150 lines of reusable Sass, avoiding a proposed rewrite of approximately 1.5 million lines of HTML.
- Modified legacy PrimeNG behavior where necessary for accessibility and helped developers apply practical WCAG and Section 508 techniques.
- Explained Section 508 requirements and remediation planning to senior leadership for a newly acquired Department of Veterans Affairs client. Advised senior UK insurance leaders on accessibility expectations for European expansion.
- Guided offshore teams, including the Noida team, on UX, accessibility, and front-end implementation in a globally distributed delivery environment.
- Identified redundant wrapper components, tightly coupled abstractions, inconsistent patterns, and code growth that increased compile times and maintenance risk.
- Simplified one documented implementation from 21 story points to 5 and contributed to a dynamic screen that replaced multiple custom screens.
- Maintained an independent LifePRO modernization branch to investigate framework, Bootstrap, Sass, and legacy PrimeNG compatibility risks. This was separate from the official production application and did not represent a shipped platform upgrade.
- Conducted usability tests and coached junior testers on role-based permissions so access restrictions were distinguished from product defects.
- Wrote limited page-shell C# and consulted specialists for heavier C# work.

The role ended when the LifePRO Web UI program was discontinued.

LifePRO was named a Leader in the 2021 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Life Insurance Policy Administration Systems, North America, during this period.

Indianapolis Public Schools | User Interface Developer

August 2019 to October 2019 | Indianapolis, Indiana

Contract engagement through TEKsystems, customizing PowerSchool forms and interaction logic for district reporting requirements.

- Worked with district leadership to translate Indiana reporting requirements into JavaScript, jQuery, HTML, and CSS form behavior.
- Reworked forms to account for relationships among answers, including combinations of dropdown selections that changed required fields.
- Recalculated requirements as answers changed, reset dependent values when they became invalid, and made requirements visible through grouping, required-state indicators, and inline validation.
- Enforced state and federal discipline/reporting rules at the point of entry to prevent known-invalid submissions and improve reporting accuracy.

TCC Software Solutions | User Experience Developer

May 2015 to June 2019 | Indianapolis, Indiana

The Consultant's Consortium, doing business as TCC Software Solutions, Inc.

Progressed from Software Developer I into UX Developer II, expanding from interface development into research, product design, accessibility, mentoring, and UX practice development. Worked on government platforms for Indiana, Oregon, Michigan, New Jersey, and Louisiana, the reusable Ascend product, and corporate websites.

UX practice and team development

- Established a shared business-analysis and UX working model that brought user needs and agency requirements into the development process earlier and became more widely adopted within TCC.
- Coordinated with project managers, analysts, engineers, clients, sales, stakeholders, and end users through requirements, design, development, system testing, user acceptance, and integration.
- Helped formalize UX Developer I, II, and III career levels with HR and leadership. Participated in recruiting, interviewing, onboarding, mentoring, and staff development.
- Trained developers in HTML5, Sass/CSS, WCAG, Section 508, ARIA, and practical front-end techniques. Organized a Lunch & Learn with Indianapolis UX agency GravityDrive to introduce broader UX methods.

Ascend and Oregon Early Learning Information System

- Worked concurrently on the Ascend product and Oregon Scrum teams. Oregon ELIS was the first client edition of the configurable licensing platform.
- Designed and developed Angular interfaces, HTML, and Sass, with Section 508 responsibilities and support for translation into five languages.
- Partnered with business analyst Annie Rayhill on a structured comparative usability study covering approximately 30 sessions. Prepared two approaches, moderator scripts, and standardized recording forms; both moderators tested both approaches, with trained client staff recording observations.
- Combined the strongest elements of both approaches rather than selecting a single winner. Applied findings to Oregon's implementation and the underlying Ascend product.
- Helped introduce client usability research before development, extending UX beyond validation of already-built software.

Other government research and public-facing work

- Supported usability testing of functioning New Jersey childcare-licensing software with parallel onsite teams.
- Prepared and conducted onsite usability work with Michigan Lottery and Charitable Gaming staff, including workflows for charitable-gaming licenses, raffles, and pull tabs.
- Used personas and discovery workshops to expose hidden business rules, edge cases, and stakeholder conflicts.
- Worked on the separate Oregon Childcare Safety Portal, which exposed inspection information to parents and the public. Matched the existing Early Learning Division site's presentation and improved portal performance.

Vertex Solutions Group

- Led Angular architecture, implementation, and technical delivery for a website built from scratch on an approximately six-week trade-show schedule, collaborating with colleagues responsible for much of the visual design.
- Built the original site with Angular CLI, including a distinctive particle and donut carousel for the trade-show experience.
- Subsequently modernized the Angular application and added service-worker/PWA support.
- Received Employee of the Month for meeting the delivery deadline.

TCC corporate website

- Assumed primary front-end ownership of an inherited ASP.NET/MVC.NET website, collaborating with backend/API developers.
- Stabilized the site, reorganized front-end structure, converted CSS to Sass, and improved maintainability.
- Designed and built additional pages consistent with the commissioned visual direction and company sales materials; completed a major front-end overhaul in 2018.
- Continued maintenance, SEO, and performance improvements, adding service workers and PWA support in May 2019. Achieved a near-perfect Lighthouse result, with lack of HTTP/2 support on the host server recorded as the remaining limitation.

Dreyer & Reinbold | Digital Presence Coordinator

September 2011 to May 2015 | Indianapolis and Greenwood, Indiana

Managed digital presence across five automotive brands, seven dealerships, and 11 dealership websites. The role also included photography and web development.

- Managed website content, HTML/CSS presentation, graphics, landing pages, inventory and pricing presentation, and manufacturer requirements for BMW, MINI, Infiniti, Volkswagen, and Subaru properties.
- Photographed vehicle inventory and maintained corporate social accounts, HTML email templates, and campaigns using Constant Contact and VinSolutions.
- Managed and troubleshot third-party inventory and listing feeds, including TrueCar, Edmunds, and Cars.com, and coordinated vendor data-handling requirements.
- Built and enhanced database-driven tools in an inherited classic ASP intranet for dealership operations and finance. Wrote SQL and repaired legacy queries.
- Created a BMW month-end finance workflow that reduced a process from approximately 2.5 days to about 15 minutes. The functionality remained in use more than a decade later.
- Trained and supervised department interns.

Earlier web and technical background

Web project work dates to 2003, preceding the professional employment history beginning in September 2011. Former Fender silver-certified warranty technician, originally certified in 1998; experience in instrument repair, diagnosis, and troubleshooting. Trained in guitar building and repair at Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery.

Technical and professional capabilities

Angular foundation: Early Angular 2 adopter who helped lead an enterprise migration from AngularJS to Angular. Current independent application work uses Angular 22.

UX and product: Interaction design, enterprise workflows, discovery, requirements translation, information architecture, personas, usability research, comparative studies, responsive design, reusable interface patterns, and design-system application.

Front-end engineering: Angular, Angular CLI, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML and semantic markup, Sass/SCSS, CSS Grid and Flexbox, reusable components, lazy routing, state management, dependency injection, service workers, and PWAs. Current React 19 project work includes TypeScript, Vite 8, and Three.js with GLB/glTF and Draco loading. Earlier experience includes jQuery, Bootstrap, and PrimeNG.

Accessibility: Section 508, WCAG, ARIA, semantic landmarks, skip navigation, keyboard and focus behavior, accessible forms and tables, component-library remediation, and developer training.

Research and design tools: Justinmind interactive prototyping, Figma, Balsamiq, Adobe Photoshop and Creative Suite; earlier work with Dreamweaver and CMS/WordPress.

Quality and delivery: Vitest, Angular TestBed, axe, Lighthouse, Chrome DevTools, responsive and physical-device testing, acceptance criteria, Git/GitHub, Jira, Team Foundation Server as a TCC user, Agile/Scrum, system testing, UAT, CI/CD collaboration, Cloudflare, analytics, and SEO.

Systems collaboration: Front-end work in ASP.NET/MVC.NET environments; collaboration with .NET/C# and API developers; REST/JSON integration; earlier classic ASP intranet work.

AI product development: Human-in-the-loop workflows, agent task design and supervision, source provenance, correction and reconciliation models, AI-assisted discovery and delivery, and human review of generated work.

Career chronology

Career break | April 2023 to 2026 | Medical recovery and family responsibilities.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Informatics | Indiana University, through IUPUI, Indianapolis | December 2013

Computer Science cognate and Certificate of Applied Computer Science | Purdue University, through IUPUI | Completed alongside the IU degree

Cumulative GPA 3.49; major GPA 3.97; computer science cognate GPA 3.95. Multiple Dean's List terms.

Guitar Building and Repair | Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery | Training began in fall 1997

Certifications and professional development

- MIT xPRO: Designing and Building AI Products and Services | February 2026 | 4.80 CEUs
- DeepLearning.AI / Coursera: AI for Everyone | June 2024
- CX University: Customer Experience Specialist | June 2021
- TestDome: Angular (Hard); HTML/CSS & Bootstrap (Hard) | June 2019
- PeopleCert: ITIL Foundation | November 2015
- Eleven Fifty Academy / Gravity Drive: UX Design Refresher | December 2015