

# Josh Van Riel

## Senior Full-Stack Javascript Developer & AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate

Typescript | React | Redux | Node | Next | MongoDB | Cypress | Jest | RTL | AWS

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### → Summary

Highly self motivated, full-stack JS developer with over 7 years experience developing and maintaining production applications.

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate.
- Former Corporal in the British Army, gaining many valuable skills in leadership & management, as well as a solid work ethic, efficiency, teamwork and punctuality.
- Business minded through own entrepreneurial business endeavours
- Intellectually curious and addicted to learning new skills & technology
- A firm believer that good software development includes good testing, documentation, collaboration & code review.
- Plenty of experience in mentoring junior developers & teaching new technologies.

### → Work Experience

#### Raketech Group

Senior Full Stack JS Developer, (Feb 2018 → Feb 2023)

#### Picks & Parlays (Apr 2022 - Feb 2023)

- Lead backend dev working as part of a 2 man team on a platform with 1M monthly visitors (SimilarWeb)
- In charge of architectural decisions such as DB cluster, caching & tech stack
- Migrated huge legacy database (~150k posts) to new MongoDB instance.
- Helped develop and launch the frontend app and resolved issues post launch
- Created a custom solution for a data pipeline & dynamic sitemap with usage of AWS Serverless services such as AWS Lambda, ECS & AWS Fargate.
- Designed, developed, tested and deployed the backend API & CMS
- Huge focus on maintaining performance, SEO value & UI/UX for existing visitors

#### Bettingselskaper.com (Jun 2021 - Aug 2021)

- Built this production website for the Norwegian market as part of a 3 person team
- This site utilises React, NextJS & Redux with Headless WordPress acting as the CMS for easier administration by the content & SEO teams.

#### Betnippon.com (Feb 2021 - Apr 2021)

- Built this production website for the Japanese market as part of a 3 person team.
- This site utilises React, NextJS & Redux with a SQL database
- Assisted with the setup of the development environment with Docker alongside DevOps.

#### Casinoguide.se (Jan 2021 - Apr 2021)

- Lead dev on a 2 person team in charge of migrating a WP site with 40k monthly visitors to a full Javascript, React, Redux & NextJS application
- Refactored components to Storybook component library written in Typescript

#### Howtobet.com (May 2020 - Apr 2022)

- Took HowToBet from initial concept to 40k visitors per month (2 person team)
- Optimised core web vitals & SEO keyword rankings
- Implemented geo-targeting & solution to ensure compliance with US State legislation on gambling and advertising.

### → Skills & Technologies



### → Extra Responsibilities

- Conducted R&D as well as A/B testing for new technologies & best practices to integrate as part of the companies tech stack.
- Delivered presentations on emerging tech to the development team such as E2E testing with Cypress, unit testing with Jest, using AWS services such as AWS Lambda, and how to correctly use Postman for API development, collaboration & testing.
- Trained and mentored a 5 person team in Ukraine, making them proficient in React, NextJS & Redux.

### → Education

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect
- 1st Class Ba Hons In Electronic Music
- HNC - British Army School of Electrical & Aeronautical Engineering
- Self taught coder with 7 years commercial experience

### → About Me


When I'm not working on personal projects or learning new skills I like to socialise with friends, DJ or get outdoors and do something active. Below are some of my hobbies.




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### → Work Experience Continued

#### NextJS Static Lab (Mar 2020)

- Internal R&D project for demonstrating the benefits of next-gen NextJS features to the rest of the development team such as static site generation (SSG), and Incremental Static Regeneration (ISR) for both static and dynamic routes.
- conducted A/B testing on performance & SEO optimisation with NextJS dynamic imports such as script & component lazy loading using Intersection Observers. This showed huge improvements in performance.
- Tested and demonstrated other new features within NextJS such as middleware & image optimisation.

#### NPM Email subscription package (Mar 2020)

- Created an email subscribe form as an npm package to integrate with AWeber (an email newsletter management service).
- This package has been used on various sites such as howtobet.com

#### Ukrainian Dev Team Mentor (Feb 2019 - Oct 2021)

- Trained and managed a 5 person Ukrainian development team.
- I went to Odessa in Ukraine on two separate occasions to conduct a week of intensive training on WordPress & NodeJS, I then managed this team for approximately 6 months.
- As a team, we overhauled approximately 150 WordPress affiliate sites that were very outdated or were acquisitions from other companies that needed to be brought in line with our company standards.
- Approximately a year after the first management task, I later re-trained this team on React, Redux & NextJS with a headless WordPress backend. I conducted this training using Microsoft Teams and recording instructional videos during the covid pandemic.

#### Cryptimi.com (Jun 2018 - Mar 2019)

- Part of a 2 man team working on a crypto blog site with 40k monthly visitors
- Liased with the project owner to develop new features & maintain the project
- Optimised site performance metrics to reduce initial page load time & web vitals
- Optimised website security

#### Headed WordPress Websites (Jan 2018 - Jan 2019)

- I was part of a development team administrating around 150-200 websites, some notable sites are: casinobonusar.nu, casinointernet.se, casinomagazine.com, bettingselskaper.com and norgecasino.com
- Tasks on these sites ranged anywhere from frontend UI to building custom themes & plugins, full site overhauls, and building REST APIs.
- A lot of the work on these sites was very SEO orientated due to the nature of the iGaming industry.

### → Freelance Experience & Personal Projects

#### Automated Faceless YouTube Channel (May 2023)

- Beta tested latest ChatGPT API features to automate the operations of a faceless YouTube channel.
- The app creates a 15-20 minute true crime video using only the name of a serial killer/notorious crime as input.
- Built autonomous content creation processes including:
  - Investigation research
  - Transcript creation
  - Speech synthesis from transcript
  - Media encoding, filtering, and overlay tasks via Ffmpeg
  - Transcription of final audio to text with timestamps
  - Contextual keyword extraction from transcript
  - Keyword-based categorisation of stock footage library for overlays
  - Automated YouTube upload via Google APIs
- Developed a mechanism to save data at each stage for inspection and isolated re-runs.

#### YouTube Meta Generator Chrome Extension (Apr 2023)

- Created a chrome extension that can take a pasted youtube video link or uploaded video file and convert it into metadata for youtube such as a suitable title, description and tags.
- Implemented the backend in AWS using a serverless architecture and typescript. OpenAI API's were used for transcription and inference such as ChatGPT and Whisper, as well as Ffmpeg for video conversion.
- I architected the system to use a range of AWS services in tandem to make it secure, easily scaleable and highly available. It uses services such as Api Gateway, Lambda, S3, SNS, CloudWatch, AWS SAM and CloudFormation for infrastructure as code.
- The frontend chrome extension was built using Typescript, React and Material UI.

#### Joshcodesbest.com (Nov 2022)

- Created this portfolio website with Typescript, React, NextJS 13, MongoDB, Material UI & AWS services. Built the backend CMS for the website & wrote E2E and API tests using CypressJS. documented API routes with a Postman API & Schema.
- Added integrations such as a customised GitLab activity display grid, custom React hooks, use of the context API and use of dynamic, statically generated routes at build time (enhanced with ISR).
- Optimised site performance, caching layer & core web vitals to achieve a Lighthouse & GTMetrix score of 99+ for both desktop & mobile.

#### Audiolancer.io (Apr 2021 - Apr 2023)

- Beta launched a full stack e-commerce & CMS platform.
- Designed, developed, tested and refined every aspect of this application myself using React, NextJS, MongoDB, Mongoose, Redux, Stripe subscription payments & Amazon AWS. This project uses a lot of extra services & technologies and is built for enterprise level traffic.
- Important aspects of this project involve server-side rendering components as well as statically rendering public dynamic routes at build time & incrementally rebuilding the cache (SSG & ISR).
- Currently undergoing Material UI & Typescript upgrade for Q3 of 2023.

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### → Projects Continued

#### **MQL4 & MQL5 Forex Trading Bots (Oct 2020 - Mar 2021)**

- Developed various Forex & Crypto trading EAs (expert advisors) using MQL4 & MQL5. This involved working with time-series data, Creating strategies, back & forward testing & strategy optimisation.
- Some strategies, techniques & indicators I developed are: Multi timeframe support & resistance, trend lines, MA's, MA Cross, & MA ribbon, Aroon, Alligator, Bollinger bands, Heiken Ashi, parabolic SAR, momentum indicators, candlestick pattern recognition for entries & exits as well as reversals, RSI & Stochastic indicators & divergence indicators that can be applied to other indicators to build confluences.

#### **Tinder & Instagram Bots (Sept 2020 - Jan 2021)**

- Created various automated bots for running in a headless, server only environment, with most notable projects being an OOP, class based tinder API wrapper to automate and harness the power of the app in a server environment. Secondly, an Instagram bot utilising NodeJS & Puppeteer for automating common social media tasks & scraping data.

#### **Various NodeJS Based Websites (Dec 2019 - Oct 2022)**

- Created a subscription-based SAAS crypto signal site for a client. Utilising Express, EJS, Websockets, StripeJS subscriptions & MongoDB
- Built two proposal websites to showcase ideas for Boomtown Festival. One written in NodeJS & Express (Bad Syntax Project) and the other written in React & NextJS (Boomtown Sustainability Project). These sites utilised various APIs and technologies such as FaceAPI & tensorflowJS for machine learning demo's using realtime interaction with the users camera and for image detection.

#### **Studioslave.com (Jan 2016 - Jun 2018)**

- Founded, developed & maintained Studioslave.com, a music production education platform which now receives 60k monthly visitors.