

Damon Thomas

Software Engineer

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Summary

Software engineer specializing in building full-stack robust applications with React, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, and Next.js. Skilled in the entire project lifecycle, from translating business goals into technical requirements to deploying high-performance web solutions. My background in military leadership and business management provides a unique foundation for disciplined problem-solving, team collaboration, resilience, and critical thinking.

Skills

Programming/Database Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL

Web Technologies and Frameworks: React, Next.js, Node.js, Express.js, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, REST APIs, Jest, JSON

Cloud and Deployment Platforms: Vercel, Railway, Cloudinary, Neon

DevOps and Tools: Docker, Git, GitHub Actions (CI/CD), Automated Testing, Linting, Build Pipelines, Chrome DevTools

Database Systems and ORMs: PostgreSQL, Prisma ORM, Relational Database Design

Methodologies: Test-Driven Development (TDD), Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), Functional Programming, Mobile First Development

Experience

Software Engineer (Freelance) & Independent Projects – Remote / St. Catharines, ON Nov 2023 – Ongoing
Client Work

- Delivered client-facing websites with Next.js, TypeScript, and React integrated with a headless CMS via REST APIs, enabling full content control and scalability.
- Optimized applications for performance and SEO, achieving 100 Lighthouse scores and sub-1s load times using SSR, CDN image delivery (Cloudinary + Next.js), and query optimization.

Independent & Open Source

- Built and deployed full-stack applications with Next.js, React, TypeScript, Node.js, PostgreSQL, and Prisma, integrating OAuth, caching, and optimized data fetching.
- Designed and maintained automated CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions, Dockerized local environments, and established unit/integration tests with Jest and SuperTest.
- Actively maintained and contributed to open-source projects, including *NHL Era Rewind* (4 external collaborators, 4 stars/4 forks), where I architected core simulation logic, oversaw PRs/issues, and implemented continuous integration.

Associate Franchise Partner and Manager, M&M Food Market – St. Catharines, ON Apr 2017 – June 2025
Operated \$1M–\$1.3M/year franchise, overseeing staff, inventory, finances, customer service, advertising, brand standards, and franchisor relationship.

- Scaled a team from 4 to 10 employees to meet a rapid increase in demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing monthly sales from \$80K–\$100K and peaking at \$200K.
- Trained and managed staff during a fundamental business restructure, overseeing the successful transition to a new POS system and the integration of a new e-order platform, curbside pickup, and the Journie rewards program.

Military Officer (2Lt), Canadian Armed Forces—Oromocto, NB June 2012 – Apr 2017
Led teams of up to 75 personnel through training missions, daily operations, and ceremonial events, achieving all operational objectives.

- Completed rigorous officer training in leadership, tactics, and systems management.
- Proactively managed security clearance administration for 100+ personnel, eliminating a 50% backlog through timely outreach and process improvements.

Projects

Zuno

Code | zuno.damonthomas.dev

A React, TypeScript, and PostgreSQL application integrating Google and GitHub OAuth APIs for user verification that was built using Next.js to take advantage of image optimization, automatic code splitting, and its developer experience.

- Created SQL database and seeded with 3,000+ entries to test query optimization, UI layout, and responsiveness.
- Implemented infinite scrolling to load posts and comments seamlessly in under 1 second at scale.
- Deployed SWR caching for instant user feedback, creating a fast and responsive user experience.

Terminal Chat

Code | messaging-app-beta-six.vercel.app

A messaging platform designed with React, TypeScript, and PostgreSQL with a frontend UI and a separately hosted backend server built through test-driven development (TDD) with public API endpoints for authenticated CRUD requests.

- Created RESTful API endpoints with Express.js using GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE headers with PostgreSQL database.
- Wrote unit and integration tests with Jest and SuperTest to validate backend and API endpoint reliability.
- Added GDPR-compliant analytics and profanity filtering middleware for input sanitization.

NHL Stat Card Generator

Code | nhl-stat-cards.vercel.app

A React and TypeScript application leveraging serverless functions and key-value storage. Visited over 450 times with 350+ unique stat cards created by the hockey community.

- Engineered a PNG download feature to generate fixed-size, quality stat card images, ensuring a consistent user experience across devices.
- Utilized React Context to efficiently manage UI data across the application without unnecessary re-renders.
- Leveraged serverless functions to bypass CORS restrictions and efficiently manage a key-value store for tracking card creations, all while fetching real-time player data from the NHL API.

Education

Self-Study – Software Development

2023 - Ongoing

Focus on computer science fundamentals, data structures, algorithms, and modern web tooling.

Odin Project – Full Stack Web Development: Completed

2024 - 2025

Project-based curriculum covering HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, Git, and testing.

Royal Military College of Canada – BA in English

2012 - 2016

Emphasis on critical thinking and professional written communication, analysis, and presentation.

Certifications

Frontend Masters – JavaScript: The Hard Parts, v2

Aug, 2025

Diving under the hood into higher-order functions, closure, asynchronous JavaScript, and object-oriented JavaScript

Frontend Masters – TypeScript 5+ Fundamentals, v4

Sept, 2025

Typescript features such as variable typing, function signatures, union and intersection types, type aliases, and generics