

Benjamin Steyaert

Principal engineer and technical founder with 10+ years turning complex problems into lean, purposeful solutions. I bridge the full stack – from self-hosted infrastructure and CI/CD to pixel-perfect front-ends – with a deep appreciation for performance, accessibility, and the end user's experience. I'm at my best when technology disappears and people just get things done.

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Specialties

Languages & Frameworks: TypeScript, JavaScript (Vanilla, ES6+), React, Node.js, AstroJS/NextJS, REST APIs, HTML5, CSS3/LESS

Tools & Platforms: Jest, Playwright, Git/SourceTree, Heroku, Agile/Waterfall, Figma, WordPress.

Specialties: Team Leadership, Feature Enhancement, Project Planning & Development, Web Architecture, Performance Optimization, Accessibility (A11Y/WCAG Compliance), CI/CD Pipelines.

Databases & Other Tech: MongoDB, MySQL, Postgres, MariaDB, Adobe/Google Analytics, Bootstrap, GraphQL.

Professional Experience

HenHouse Solutions - *Owner*

April 2023 - Current

Self-employed consultancy delivering full-stack development, platform architecture, and managed hosting for small businesses, local non-profits, and municipalities.

Mono-Repo Platform: Built a proprietary deployment platform on Hetzner & Cloudflare Pages using PayloadCMS, Next.js, React, Tailwind, MongoDB, and custom UI components. Orchestrated via Coolify with n8n automation for rapid, low-overhead client deployments.

Fleet Management System: Modernized a deprecated Drupal multi-tenant platform for police departments and fleet organizations. Rebuilt on PayloadCMS + Next.js 15 App Router with CI/CD, backups, and load balancing on Hetzner. Reduced operational costs by \$250/month.

CRM Replacement: Replaced a \$14,000/year SaaS CRM/SEO platform with a custom PayloadCMS implementation, returning full data ownership to the client.

Non-Profit & Union Work: Designed, migrated, and self-hosted sites for local non-profits and unions at no cost, saving each organization hundreds of dollars annually.

FUDTA, Fremont - *Pro Bono*

March 2024 - Current

Platform: Headless WordPress website served via AstroJS, enhancing scalability and performance.

Process: Led a collaborative redesign with union board members, integrating user authentication

Wins: WCAG accessibility compliance, easy user ownership over content, single point of access to union documentation through GoogleDrive integration.

Salesforce, San Francisco - *Senior Member of Technical Staff*

June 2014 - March 2023

Web Architecture & Performance: Led the development of a micro-component frontend library that scaled to support 16M+ UVPM, ensuring accessibility (A11Y compliance) and performance optimization.

Global Navigation: Delivered a unified, high-performing navigation system, reducing page load time and streamlining multilingual support for 22 languages.

Accessibility: Developed an A11Y-compliant site-wide library, improving user experiences across all breakpoints and devices.

Leadership: Mentored and led teams of 3-5 engineers, collaborating with marketing and IT for cross-functional alignment on global projects.

Site Migrations & Redesigns: Spearheaded replatforming efforts, including analytics integrations and schema contracts for seamless migrations.

Workforce Logic, San Francisco - *Web Developer Contractor*

September 2011 - January 2012

Praetorian Group, San Francisco - *Web Manager & Developer*

July 2010 - September 2011

AppleBox Studios, San Luis Obispo, CA | Honokowai Maui, HI - *Owner*

March 2006 - July 2010

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA - *Instructor*

April 2008 - June 2008

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo | 2006

Additional Achievements

Eagle Scout: Demonstrated leadership and dedication through achieving the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

White Stag Leadership Program: Recognized as Leader of the Year for exceptional team management and vision.

Interests

Photography, hiking/backpacking, travel, cooking/BBQ/smoking, home renovation, micro electronics, 3D printing, home automation, automotive projects, gardening, art/museums.