

Steven Watkins

<https://www.alchemyst.digital/> • StevenRWatkins86@gmail.com • (720) 451-3767

Innovative and versatile developer with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a keen eye for artistic detail. Proven expertise in full-stack development, DevOps, and web technologies, complemented by a deep understanding of various programming languages and frameworks. Adept at creating visually stunning, efficient, and user-friendly applications. Seeking a challenging developer role to leverage my technical skills and creative vision.

Skills

Languages & Frameworks

HTML, CSS, JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js
React, Next.js, React Native, Python, Perl, Ruby,
UE C++ Blueprinting, NGINX, Apache

Backend / Databases

MongoDB, Appwrite, Firebase, Firebase Admin,
Firestore, MS Azure, AWS, S3, Supabase,
MySQL, PlanetScale, GraphQL, Grok

CSS Frameworks

Tailwind CSS, Bootstrap, Saas CSS, ShadCN,
Material UI, Styled Components, Headless UI,

Middleware

Apollo, Mongoose, Helmet, useSWR, Express,
RESTful API, Morgan, CORS

Testing

Jest, React Testing Library, Husky, ES-Lint,
Prettier

Authentication

OTP Verification, JWT Token, Bcrypt, NextAuth,
Clerk

Libraries / Plugins

OpenAI, Zustand, Zod, Redux, React Hook Form,
Framer Motion, Recharts, ReactDnD, Next-
Translate, Prisma, Axios, Tanstack Query

Operating Systems

Windows: XP, 7, Vista, 10, 11

↳ **Server:** 2003, 2008, 2012, 2022

Linux: Ubuntu (Desktop/Server/Studio),
Debian, Mint, LMDE, Fedora, openSUSE,
Kali, Backtrack, TAILS, ArchLinux, CentOS

Other: Android, ARM (32/64)

Software Proficiency

Content Creation: Photoshop, Premiere, After
Effects, Audition, Lightroom/Bridge, Corel

Painter, GIMP, Resolve, StreamLabs, OBS, Prism
3D: 3DS Max, Maya, Mudbox, Blender,
Sculptris, Houdini, SideFX

Game Development: Unreal Engine 4/5, Unity,
Substance Designer, Speed Tree, World
Machine, Quixel Suite, Marmoset Toolbag,

Office: Libre Office Suite, Microsoft 365

Design: Figma

CI/DC: GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Github
Webhooks, Gitlab, Vercel, Docker, Kubernetes

Experience

Sustain the Scoop – Personal SaaS Project [<https://scoop-sustain.vercel.app/>]

June 2024 - Present

↳ SaaS project providing creator donation and community support funding with a focus in supporting suppressed and censored journalist

Next.js DevOps Specialist / API Developer

- Designed and developed a feature-rich SaaS platform using Next.js 15, TypeScript, and MongoDB, creating a unified solution for creator monetization and community support.
- Designed and executed a comprehensive profile management system, allowing creators to showcase their work, share bios, and integrate social media links, significantly improving user engagement.
- Developed a dynamic dashboard featuring revenue tracking, supporter analytics, and fundraising progress, empowering creators with actionable insights to grow their audience and income.
- Integrated advanced monetization tools, including tips, subscriptions, and merchandise sales, diversifying revenue streams for creators and boosting overall platform profitability.
- Utilized AWS S3 for file storage, enabling seamless uploads of high-quality images and documents, enhancing the visual appeal of creator profiles.

Men's Wearhouse – Remote [<https://menswearhouse.com/>]

January 2024 - May 2024

↳ Short-term project to modernize and optimize the e-commerce platform

Next.js Specialist / Front-End Developer (UI/UX)

- Led the front-end UI refresh of menswearhouse.com, enhancing user experience and modernizing the site's aesthetic while maintaining brand consistency.
- Executed the migration from React to Next.js, leveraging server-side rendering and advanced caching features to significantly improve page load times and overall performance.
- Optimized data fetching processes by implementing Next.js server-side rendering, resulting in faster initial page loads and improved SEO.
- Utilized Next.js's built-in caching capabilities to reduce server load and further enhance site speed, particularly for frequently accessed product pages and categories.
- Collaborated with the back-end team to ensure smooth integration of the new front-end architecture with existing systems and databases.
- Implemented performance monitoring tools to quantify improvements, demonstrating a 92% reduction in average page load time and 90% increase in Google Core Web Vitals scores.

UnTelevised Media - Denver, CO [<https://untelevised.media/>]

January 2019 - March 2024

↳ Independent media outlet covering political climate, natural disasters, environmental issues, and breaking news

Sr. Next.js Developer / Infrastructure DevOps Engineer (NGINX)

- Spearheaded website evolution through three iterations, progressing from WordPress to a MERN Stack based blog, and finally to a Next.js & Sanity-powered platform, demonstrating versatility and continuous improvement.
- Designed and implemented a custom CMS interface and back-end schema using Next Sanity, significantly enhancing content management capabilities and editorial control.
- Engineered and deployed custom NGINX based live streaming infrastructure, enabling high-quality field-to-studio broadcasts and revolutionizing video production workflows, resulting in elevated broadcast quality and improved overall production value.
- Innovated a versatile dynamic News Ticker using GROK query language, automating real-time headline extraction from website content. This single instance seamlessly integrates with both live broadcasts and the news site header, enhancing viewer engagement across platforms while demonstrating efficient code reuse.
- Optimized server caching through Next.js App Router features, resulting in dramatically improved site speed and content delivery performance.
- Consistently leveraged cutting-edge web technologies to enhance user experience, streamline operations, and maintain UnTelevised Media's competitive edge in digital news delivery.

↳ Low Voltage contractor specializing in custom installs serving both residential and commercial

Web Developer / Digital Marketing Specialist

- Managed a multi-faceted digital presence, including website content, social media platforms, and online advertising, utilizing a diverse skill set in web development, graphic design, and multimedia production to establish Decima Tech as a top competitor in the low voltage contracting market.
- Led the creation of the company's brand identity, including logo design and visual content production, leveraging photography and videography skills to create compelling advertisements and project showcases that enhanced brand recognition and drove client inquiries.
- Designed and developed a comprehensive multi-page website, while implementing targeted SEO and digital marketing strategies, resulting in significantly improved online visibility, higher search engine rankings, and increased lead generation.

A.R. Media Group - Washington, D.C.

 [<https://anonresistance.news/>] [<https://thefifthcolumn.com/>] [<https://antimedia.com/>]

November 2013 - March 2019

↳ Independent media outlet specializing in covering; the political climate within America, green energy initiatives, corporate corruption and environmental issues

Senior React Developer / Digital Media Strategist

- Created time-sensitive, impactful promotional and educational videos on complex subjects, enhancing audience engagement and information dissemination.
- Led web development and management for multiple high-profile media sites, ensuring optimal performance and user experience.
- Leveraged diverse skills in web development, graphic design, video production, and social media management to establish and maintain a strong, cohesive online presence for the media group.
- Orchestrated comprehensive digital branding and social media strategies for 23 media outlets and partner organizations, encompassing logo design, animated motion graphics, and distinctive visual identities across multiple platforms, significantly expanding online reach and engagement.
- Designed and implemented a comprehensive back-end content distribution platform, enabling seamless collaboration and content sharing among group members across multiple media outlets, streamlining workflows and enhancing overall content management efficiency.

Hemp Sector – Remote

 [<https://hempsector.org/>] [<https://hempsector.net/>]

February 2013 – August 2018

↳ Activism group focused on education on the hemp plant its benefits and uses

WordPress Developer / Shopify Developer / Social Media Manager

- Designed and maintained a multi-page WordPress website, regularly updating content and maintaining the platform to ensure an informative and seamless user experience for hemp education.
- Created and managed a Shopify e-commerce store selling hemp-related products, with proceeds directly supporting the organization's educational outreach programs. Integrated the store with the main website to create a cohesive user experience.
- Implemented a comprehensive social media strategy across multiple platforms, creating engaging content that significantly increased public awareness and interest in hemp benefits and use.
- Utilized web development skills in WordPress and Shopify, combined with social media management expertise, to create a unified online presence that amplified the organization's message and supported its mission.
- Leveraged photography skills to capture high-quality images of hemp and cannabis-related products, enhancing visual appeal and engagement on both the website and social media platforms.
- Analyzed web and social media metrics to continuously refine digital marketing strategies, optimizing content and improving user engagement across all platforms.

Digital Alchemyst Studios - Jackson, MS

June 2010 – May 2013

↳ Video game asset development studio creating high-quality assets for next-generation video games and films.

Senior 3D Environment Artist / Game Developer

- Engineered an innovative Auto-Terrain Texturing system in Unreal Engine 4, significantly improving efficiency in environment creation and texture application.
- Developed a custom Photo to PBR graph in Substance Designer, enabling rapid generation of PBR texture maps from photographs and drastically reducing production time.
- Designed and crafted expansive 3D environments and assets for open-world scenarios, translating concept art and reference photography into immersive digital landscapes.
- Utilized Unreal Engine's Blueprint scripting system to program back-end game functionality, enhancing game play mechanics and overall user experience.
- Demonstrated versatility across multiple disciplines, including C# development, level design, graphic design, and motion graphic animation, contributing to the studio's ability to deliver comprehensive game development solutions.

Steven Watkins Photography

 [<https://stevenwatkinsphotography.com/>]

May 2024

↳ This is a personal photography portfolio and blog for myself.

Next.js 14.2 / Typescript / Tailwind CSS / Sanity Studio

- Developed a comprehensive Next.js application for a professional photography portfolio, leveraging modern web technologies such as TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, and React.
- Implemented SEO friendly metadata generation for both blog posts and gallery pages, ensuring high visibility on search engines like Google.
- Integrated third-party services including Google Tag Manager, Vercel Analytics, and EmailJS for enhanced functionality and analytics capabilities.
- Utilized Sanity.io for content management, enabling dynamic rendering of blog posts and gallery pages based on real-time data fetched from the Sanity back-end.
- Employed responsive design techniques to ensure the website provides an optimal viewing experience across a wide range of devices, from desktops to mobile phones.
- Incorporated accessibility features throughout the application, making it accessible to users with disabilities.
- Set up a deployment pipeline using Vercel, automating the build and deployment process for seamless updates and roll-outs.
- Optimized image loading and performance using Next.js Image component and lazy-loading strategies, significantly improving page load times and overall user experience.
- Added interactive elements such as social media share buttons and embedded videos within blog posts, enhancing user engagement.

Portfolio Projects

Vagablog

↳ This is a blog website that can use ChatGPT to generate blog content paired with prompts to use in an AI image generation model of your choice.

Next.js 13.4 / OpenAI / Prisma / Planetscale / Firebase / NextAuth / Typescript / Tailwind CSS

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/vagablog> / <https://vagablog.vercel.app/>

Checkmate

↳ Checkmate is a GPT-4 powered todo list application. It uses AI to help summarize your tasks and suggest the best way to complete them, prioritizes task, and uses the priority system to flag important task.

Next.js 13.6 / Zustand / OpenAI / Headless UI / Appwrite / Beautiful DND / Typescript / Tailwind CSS

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/checkmate> / <https://checkmate-digitl-alchemyst.vercel.app/>

Wander-Lodge

↳ AirBNB style lodging application

Next.js 13.4 / Map-boxGL / Appwrite /

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/wander-lodge> / <https://wander-lodge-digitl-alchemyst.vercel.app/>

Gypsy

↳ A ChatGPT Clone using Next.js 14 & Firestore for logging message history

Next.js 13.2-14.4 / Typescript / Tailwind CSS / OpenAI / Tip-Tac / Firebase / Firestore / NextAuth / useSWR / Whisper / Microsoft Azure

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/gypsy>

Cloud Stash

↳ A secure file storage application with cryptographic document signing, encryption, editing & collaboration.

Next.js / Tailwind CSS / Typescript / Firebase / Firestore / Clerk / ShadCN / Dropzone / Tanstack Tables

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/google-shopping> / <https://google-shopping.vercel.app/>

Town Square

↳ A Twitter/X/Threads style social media app

Next.js / Type Script / Clerks / Upload Thing / Mongoose / MongoDB / Prisma

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/town-square> /

Travel Pass

↳ A hotel and flight pricing scraper that scans multiple sources (hotels.com booking.com priceline.com and others) SAAS concept project.

Next.js / Type Script / Tailwind CSS / OxyLabs Scrapper / Shad CN / Zod

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/travel-pass> / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtPs9kD9ExY>

Regal Stream

↳ A video streaming service UI/UX project with AI recommendation features.

Next.js / Type Script / Clerks / Upload Thing / Mongoose / MongoDB / Prisma

McDonald's UI/UX Updates

↳ This is a front end rework for <https://McDonalds.com/> used as part of a bid submission, also includes slight improvements on store locator functionality

Next.js 14.1 / Typescript / TailwindCSS / Skeleton Loader

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/google-shopping> / <https://google-shopping.vercel.app/>

Google Shopping Clone

↳ This is a clone of the Google shopping app created in Next.js 13.4.8 with Tailwind CSS & Typescript. It uses OxyLabs Ecommerce Scrapper.

Next.js 13.3 / OxyLabs Web Scrapper / Appwrite / Skeleton Loader

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/google-shopping> / <https://google-shopping.vercel.app/>

Dynamo

↳ React Admin Dashboard

React / Saas CSS / Typescript / Recharts / Node.js / Express

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/Dynamo>

Dashy

↳ Admin Dashboard providing an overview of tracked data through charts, events management via calendar, and contact management & invoice tracking through data grids

React / Material UI / MUI Datagrid / React Pro Sidebar / Nivo Charts / Formik / Full Calendar

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/Dashy> / <https://dashy-mauve-seven.vercel.app/>

Indigo

↳ Admin Dashboard providing an overview of tracked data through charts & data grids, reading data from a Mongo DB

React / Material UI / MUI Datagrid / Nivo Charts / MongoDB / Mongoose / Apollo / GraphQL / Node.js / Express

- <https://github.com/Digitl-Alchemyst/Project-Indigo>

Education

Hinds Community College

Pearl, MS

Dual Majors in Welding and Sociology

Dean's Scholar and President's List • Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Beta

Fullsail University

Winter Park, FL

Game Development Bachelor's • Application Development Fundamentals

Online Courses

Full Stack Zero to Hero

Web Dev Simplified

Next.js Bootcamp

Tech Accelerator from Coding Phase

Next JS & Open AI / GPT: Next-generation Next JS & AI apps