Demarcus Johnson

mr.demarcus.johnson@gmail.com
+1 618-855-5361
linkedin.com/in/mrdjohnson
mrdjohnson.github.io

Summary

Senior Full-Stack Engineer with 10+ years of experience, including 5 years at Block and a promotion to Senior Engineer within 2 years. I plan and build web applications with React, TypeScript, APIs, databases, and AWS. I use Claude and Codex to move work faster while setting clear component, API, data, and testing boundaries.

Technical Skills

Solutions & Architecture

System design, application architecture, API design, database design, technical planning, performance troubleshooting

Languages & Web

JavaScript, TypeScript, Java, Python, React, React Native, Node.js, Express, Ruby on Rails, SQL, HTML/CSS

Platforms & Quality

REST APIs, GraphQL, AWS, Git, CI/CD, Docker, Jest, Vitest, React Testing Library, Cypress, Playwright

Collaboration

Client and stakeholder partnership, cross-functional communication, mentoring, code review, technical documentation

Education

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Computer Science, 2014

Experience

Founder & Product Engineer - TheBoardGuide — 2026-Present

- Building a multilingual product that connects physical board-game shelves to searchable inventory, customer discovery, lending and floor workflows, and public shop pages.

- Setting product direction and technical architecture across shared domain models, public and private application surfaces, localization, data boundaries, and releases that are safe to deploy.

- Coordinating specialized AI coding agents: split work by area, define shared interfaces, and check results against acceptance criteria.

- Building with React, TypeScript, automated tests, and full-stack tooling, with attention to user flows and code that stays easy to change.

Independent Full-Stack Engineer (Freelance) — Remote, 2023-Present

- Building and ship full-stack applications using React, TypeScript, Node.js, APIs, and data models.

- Translating ambiguous requirements into technical plans, architecture, implementation, testing, deployment, and iteration.

- Building reusable React components and application foundations that make later changes easier.

- Using Claude and Codex to speed up implementation, then review component, API, data, and test boundaries before merging work.

- Designing and optimizing REST and GraphQL APIs, data models, and database access patterns; reduce query latency by 50% or more on performance-critical workloads.

- Partnering with clients and stakeholders to balance MVP velocity, maintainability, and user experience.

- Diagnosing performance issues across frontend, API, and database layers rather than limiting work to a single application tier.

Block Inc — Full-Stack Senior Software Engineer, 2018 - 2023

- Identified and optimized database queries and backend performance, reducing page load times from 5+ seconds to under 1 second

- Automated AWS deployments and release workflows using Ruby scripts, reducing release time by 80%

- Added automatic release summaries from Git commits, saving the team 5-10 hours per week in manual documentation.

- Promoted to Senior Software Engineer within 2 years based on impact and leadership.

Front-end: Worked closely with the UI/UX design team, customers, and other engineers to build and maintain reusable components, hooks, pages and tests using React and Redux.

Back-end: Built and maintained the API endpoints, models, pre-existing server side rendered views, controllers, and tests using Ruby on Rails.
- Initiatives led: switched to React hooks; standardized naming conventions and code structuring; refactored the theming to use CSS variables instead of JS variables
- Wrote design documents for upcoming large changes in code
- Synced with support channels to proactively monitor potentially large issues
- Wrote ProseMirror plugins to give our article writers custom capabilities around embedded content and article / employee linking
- Mentored junior engineers, interns, and new team members, guiding them in understanding the project, its processes, and best practices for bug resolution to prevent future issues.

Earlier Experience

Asynchrony Labs - Software Engineer *(React, Kotlin)* — 2018

LaunchCode - Engineering Tutor & Mentor *(Python, Java, JS)* — 2016 - 2018

Gremlin Social - Software Engineer *(C#)* — 2017 - 2018

NISC - Software Engineer *(Java)* — 2014 - 2017

Boeing Inc - Software Engineering Intern *(Java)* — 2013 - 2014

Walmart - Cart Attendant — 2011 - 2011