



# Cory Simmons

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## About

I've been making websites since 1997, professionally since 2006.

I've made very popular open-source frontend tools (two 3,000+ star projects) which are used in production frequently by small agencies and large corporations.

I've written articles for some of the largest publishers in the industry about unique approaches to very common problems, and a book on responsive web-design.

I've spoken at a few conferences and Meetups.

I've lead frontend development on sites with tens of millions of visitors and have been approached to work with Facebook.

## Skills

I'm **very good** at:

design, typography, HTML, CSS, ES5, ES6, jQuery, WordPress, PHP, Node.js, Grunt, Gulp, npm scripts, creating CLI tools, Browserify, PostCSS, Stylus, Sass, grid systems, frontend performance, working with RESTful APIs.

I'm **pretty good** at:

PHP, WebPack, Illustrator, Photoshop.

I've **studied, but not used** much of:

React, Laravel, Vue, Express, Rollup, After Effects, developing RESTful APIs.

I've **bumbled around** with:

Ruby on Rails, Django, devops (Vagrant), sysops (Digital Ocean), Redux.

## Work History

I began working professionally in 2006 doing freelance work for local small businesses — typically custom HTML/CSS sites. I had a lot of happy customers and really enjoyed work.

Around 2008 I began doing freelance jobs by finding work on big-city Craigslist. After a few projects, one of my clients hired me full-time for a few years. The pay was bad, but it kept my family afloat. My relationship with that client was on-and-off for several years depending on our needs. Most of that work was WordPress and Photoshop focused.

Around 2012 I tried to start a small business in a small city in Kentucky. I acquired a few happy clients, but there simply wasn't a lot of money in the area. Money got tight, I had a new baby, and I got a job offer with a competitor. They made me sign a non-compete and I took my clients there as a sign of good faith. A few months later they fired me for my much more backend-talented friend. I don't sign non-competes anymore.

In October 2013 I took a job at a Rails development agency in Rhode Island. During the interview process, I made it clear I didn't know much about Rails but was willing to learn it. I was told I would be trained. Training lasted a few days before we got a huge client and plans changed. I worked there for about a year on a few large Rails projects, mostly doing frontend work. It was very difficult and even though I'd work late many nights, and was a top GitHub contributor on a very large team, I always wanted to do more backend...

I developed a bad case of imposter syndrome and ultimately left. It was a great place full of very talented people working at a level too high for me at the time. I've since learned quite a bit more about backend.

I moved back to Kentucky and began authoring for publishers like TutsPlus for about a year. This was a good gig, but didn't pay as much as I thought I could earn with a full-time job so I began pursuing a full-time job.

A few months later, I got a remote job working for a non-profit in Seattle for a little over a year. I enjoyed it but it wasn't very challenging and the pace of development was bogged down with excessive meetings. I saved a bit of money, left to study React, and "upgraded" my job to something that paid more and was more interesting.

My most recent job was working for an agency in Washington D.C. I lived in extremely rural Virginia at the time. I didn't have access to internet so attempted to make a 7 hour commute each day. I was able to do it for a few months, but eventually the sleep debt caught up with me and I ended up leaving.

## **Why should you hire me?**

I do good work.

I've dipped my toes in a lot of aspects of web-development. Because of this, I frequently come up with creative solutions to seemingly complicated problems.

I'm extremely eager to learn and constantly studying new tech, but am very practical about what tools make sense. Because of this, I'm not afraid to tackle any problem.

## **What am I looking for in a job?**

I need a remote job. I live in Kentucky with my kids, and don't want to leave them.

I love the on-site atmosphere and visiting big cities though, so I can fly in anytime.

The following stipulations should be considered "nice to haves".

I'd love to have a job where I'll be working on things I've been studying and I'm most interested in (e.g. React/Redux, WP REST API, Laravel, OO PHP, Express).

If I'm very lucky, I'll work with a patient mentor who will help me really master new design patterns. I'd like to know the job inside-and-out to avoid imposter syndrome and be as productive as I can be.

## **Thank you...**

...for taking the time to read this. I know your time is valuable, and appreciate you spending the time to get to know me a bit better.

I hope to hear from you soon. If you're not interested, I know a lot of designers/developers and might be able to point you to someone you might click with more.

## References

“Cory gets things done. Whether he was developing a new feature or overhauling a part of the codebase that needed some love, he always delivered. I was particularly impressed with his seemingly endless supply of insights and inventions aimed at making our day-to-day tasks easier. He was easy to get along with and had a positive impact on team chemistry and morale. I highly recommend him!”

### **Suresh Murty**

Developer at NOLS

“Cory is one of those developers who codes till his fingers get tired... and then codes some more. When he has a problem to solve he comes at it with a unique approach. He constantly amazes me with his ability to tackle and solve some of the grid’s most challenging problems and his work has not only inspired myself as a developer and person but thousands of developers around the world. There are countless sites that have Cory’s handiwork enabling their success.”

### **Peter Ramsing**

Frontend Architecture Consultant & Open Source Maintainer

“Cory Simmons is a developer with an innate understanding of design—a formidable combination of talents that make for web pages which are a pleasure to experience. He has demonstrated good team spirit, and his curiosity for how things work produces solutions that are thoughtful. It was a pleasure to work with Cory, and the projects that we collaborated on are the better for his input.”

### **Mignon Khargie**

Design Director, Grist