Dave Donnelly

Front End Developer | Redfern, NSW • Open to Remote/Hybrid | +61 492 334 862 | davepauldonnelly@gmail.com |
davedonnelly.dev | linkedin.com/in/dave-donnelly-dev | github.com/davedonnellydev

Summary

Transitioned from a 15-year higher-education consultancy career into front-end development, specialising in React, TypeScript, and responsive design. Senior Business Consultant for a multi-million-dollar SaaS implementation at UNSW serving 80,000+ students and 500+ staff, applying empathetic stakeholder management to deliver intuitive and user-led solutions. Dedicated to crafting maintainable, human-centred code.

Selected Projects

AI August 2025 Challenge Series   Aug '25

github.com/davedonnellydev/ai-august-2025-challenge | Built 19 AI-powered React/Next.js apps throughout August '25 using TypeScript, Neon/Drizzle & OpenAI APIs.

- A rapid-prototyping challenge exploring AI-assisted front-end development, CI/CD, automated testing, and linting.
- Integrated OpenAI APIs and emerging AI coding assistants (Cursor, GitHub Copilot) to accelerate development and explore practical applications of LLMs (e.g., smart recipe finders, accessibility checkers, AI blog summariser).
- Established production-ready starter repositories (Next.js, React, Flask) with CI/CD pipelines, linting, automated testing (using GitHub Actions run at every PR), and API proxy layers, reducing average setup time by 75%.
- Tech stack: Next.js, TypeScript, Mantine UI, Python, React Native, OpenAI APIs, Netlify, Postman & tooling related packages such as ESLint, Prettier, Jest, React Testing Library

React Personal Portfolio Website

davedonnelly.dev/ | Responsive React portfolio on Netlify dynamically displaying GitHub projects via REST API.

- Developed and deployed a React-based personal portfolio on Netlify that dynamically fetches and displays GitHub projects via REST APIs, showcasing frontend skills and automating content updates.
- Repurposed an existing React portfolio template from GitHub
- Refactored HTML & CSS to ensure responsiveness and mobile compatibility
- Integrated GitHub APIs to retrieve project information for various GitHub repos based on specific GitHub 'topic' tags
- Tech stack: React, CSS Modules, GitHub REST API, Netlify

Professional Experience

University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Senior Business Consultant   Oct '21 - May '25

- Collaborated with stakeholders to define requirements and co-author a business case, securing funding for a student-facing enterprise solution, demonstrating strong communication and user-focused problem-solving skills.
- Worked closely with cross-functional teams to deliver a SaaS product for ~80,000 students and 500+ staff, gaining hands-on experience in software implementation and user-centric design.
- Utilised SQL to generate reports analysing student and curriculum data, transforming complex student and curriculum datasets into structured requirements that fed directly into the business case.
- Led a team to manually configure rulesets for over 500 degrees across 7 years of rulesets, assuring 99.7% coverage of current students' progression, which improved data integrity, allowing reliable downstream reporting and system interoperability.
- Facilitated collaboration between stakeholders and technical teams to align product features with user needs, ensuring the solution met institutional and end-user requirements.

- Participated in user acceptance testing (UAT) for a new SaaS platform, providing actionable feedback on UI design and usability to enhance the student and staff experience.
- Facilitated technical discussions between internal IT teams and vendor engineering teams that resulted in the successful delivery of 3 new integrations with the vendor, ensuring data accuracy and continuity.

City, University of London

Technical Analyst/Developer   Feb '19 - Aug '21

- Designed, developed, and deployed a university-wide system for managing assessment repeats, reducing manual processing and streamlining administrative workflows
- Documented code changes and lifecycle in Jira, increasing transparency and team collaboration.
- Identified and resolved technical issues in student management systems, strengthening reliability and overall user experience.
- Assisted in front-end enhancements for internal tools, applying HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to improve usability and accessibility for administrative staff.

Technical Skills

Unit Testing (Jest) · Scrum, Kanban · React · SQL (Oracle, PostgreSQL) · HTML5 · CSS3 · JavaScript · TypeScript · Git · GitHub · JIRA, JQL · Confluence · Responsive Design · Accessibility (WCAG, ARIA) · RESTful APIs, AJAX · npm, Yarn · Chrome DevTools · Next.js · Netlify · GitHub Actions

Education & Certifications

General Assembly   Nov '22

Certificate, Software Engineering (Flex Immersive) | Software Engineering

Relevant Coursework & Technologies: JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, React, TypeScript, RESTful APIs, Jest, Responsive Design, Accessibility (WCAG/ARIA), Cross-Browser Compatibility, Git, CI/CD