

DON LIGGETT

DESIGN ENGINEER

Front-End · UI/UX · AI-Assisted Product Development

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SUMMARY

Design engineer with 10+ years of production front-end and brand work for organizations including The Chronicle of Higher Education, Meredith Corporation, and Wells Fargo. Now directs AI agents to design, build, and ship complete products — setting the architecture, making the calls, and reviewing every change. Recent builds include War Chest, Claude Instruct, and FLIGHT DECK. Also led the full creative operation for POAPathon (~10,000-member Discord, 45 produced episodes, ~\$120K in artist payouts coordinated).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Design Engineer — Independent Product Development

SELF-DIRECTED 2023 – Present

- **War Chest.** Built a Python data pipeline and zero-dependency web interface indexing 369 AI agent skills from 7 GitHub repositories: faceted search, a documented 0–100 quality score, near-duplicate detection, and a license audit before public release.
- **Claude Instruct.** Shipped a live, single-file web app (claudeinstruct.surge.sh) that generates Claude project instructions from 14 rule blocks, with live preview, placeholder tracking, and zero network requests.
- **FLIGHT DECK.** Designing and building a self-hosted dashboard framework with a declarative module contract and an enforced capability model, so it can host third-party widgets.
- **DSM New Business.** Launched an automated monthly feed of new Des Moines metro business registrations from state data (dsmnewbusiness.com).
- Direct and review AI-assisted development end to end: set the architecture, review every change, verify against the running product, and turn recurring bugs into automated checks.
- Run homelab infrastructure (self-hosting, networking, Linux administration) that hosts data pipelines and team tools.

Technologies: JavaScript, Python, HTML/CSS, Claude Code and AI agents, Cloudflare Workers, Docker, Linux, Git

Creative & Community Lead, Producer

POAPATHON 2021 – 2023

- Grew and managed a Discord community to a peak of approximately 10,000 members.
- Produced and hosted roughly 45 episodes of a live YouTube show, booking and interviewing dozens of guests from organizations including Gitcoin, BanklessDAO, UMA, QiDAO, PeopleDAO, LayerZero, Volatility Protocol, ETHstaker, and Rocket Pool.
- Directed brand identity and design competitions; managed artist submissions and judging, building a reputation for reliable artwork fulfillment.
- Assisted with treasury management, helping coordinate roughly \$120K in artist payouts.
- Designed and developed Cryptogs, an NFT project extension of the brand, and built and maintained the project site on Webflow.

Technologies: Webflow, Discord, YouTube production, Figma, Photoshop, community operations

Frontend Lead / Freelance Front-End Developer, Designer

INDEPENDENT / CONTRACT 2017 – 2020

- Served as Frontend Lead for Empyra's myOneFlow case management platform (2020).
- Delivered front-end development and design work across multiple independent client engagements.

Technologies: HTML5, CSS/SASS, JavaScript, jQuery, Webflow, Photoshop

Front-End Developer, Designer, UI/UX

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION Washington, DC — *chronicle.com, philanthropy.com, chroniclevitae.com* 8/2013 – 9/2017

- Led the front-end responsive redesign of Chronicle.com and Philanthropy.com, wireframing and rebuilding the legacy sites to be fully responsive.
- Designed, developed, tested, and maintained site features and microsites; served as a shared front-end resource across the company.
- Transitioned site task builders from Grunt to Gulp; maintained the front-end tool chain and advised on front-end architecture.
- Designed, coded, and tested email newsletters; partnered with UX in design, interviewing, and testing.

Technologies: HTML5, SASS, Less, JavaScript, jQuery, Node, Grunt, Gulp, Vue, Angular, Backbone, PHP, MySQL, Photoshop, Illustrator, Responsive Design

Web Developer

APPCORE Des Moines, IA 10/2012 – 1/2013

- Themed Joomla! sites, Apache CloudStack, RedMine, and WHMCS applications for external clients; managed the company's responsive site and training site.

Technologies: HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, jQuery, PHP, Photoshop, Responsive Design

Contract Front-End Web Developer

MEREDITH CORPORATION Des Moines, IA 3/2012 – 7/2012

- Developed a responsive redesign of Parents.com with an agile team, translating an elaborate design into a content-driven site from a legacy Java codebase.
- Earned department recognition for outstanding use of CSS3 — reducing HTTP requests from images and improving PageSpeed for Parents.com.

Technologies: HTML5, CSS3, Compass/SASS, JavaScript, jQuery, JSP, Responsive Design, Parallax Scrolling

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Contract Web Developer, Designer — Just Service, Chicago, IL · client sites and print

Contract Flash Developer, Web Designer — Wells Fargo Home Mortgage · educational simulations, HR/onboarding site

Web & Print Designer Internship — Erickson McLellan · company and client sites, print

SKILLS

Design: Figma, Photoshop, Illustrator, Brand & Visual Identity, UI/UX Design, Wireframing

Development: HTML5/CSS3, JavaScript, Python, Node.js, Webflow, Git, CLI, Responsive Design

AI Development: Claude Code, agent-directed development, code review of AI output, prompt and instruction design

Infrastructure: Cloudflare Workers, Docker, Linux, self-hosting, Tailscale

Production & Operations: Community Management, Video/Content Production, Project & Treasury Coordination

EDUCATION

Professional Training in Commercial Arts

Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, IA