

Brett Cocking

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Current Role	Senior Full Stack Engineer at Pleo
Experience	Fintech, Sports, eCommerce, Agency
Technologies	React, TypeScript, Node.js, Go, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, React Native

I want to work for a company that...

Embraces independence, autonomy, trust, and flexibility and values results over rigid processes and empowers their employees to think creatively and take ownership of their work.

Experience

Senior Full Stack Engineer, Pleo

Sep 2025 - Present (9m)

Fintech

React TypeScript Kotlin React Native TailwindCSS PostgreSQL Terraform

- Played a key role in planning and executing major platform upgrades, contributing to the migration of the CMS to Sanity to improve content ownership and editorial workflows, and the transition of the tech stack to Astro.
- Maintained the backend referral services and the referral screen on the React Native mobile application, resolving bugs and implementing idempotency for incoming Kafka events to ensure reliable event processing.
- Led the technical execution of growth experiments in collaboration with product management, utilizing the company's in-house A/B testing platform for localized traffic routing.
- Led the header and navigation redesign project, implementing a new navigation bar that measurably increased user sign-ups and drove users to navigate to more pages across the site.
- Designed and maintained infrastructure using Terraform and edge Lambdas to support localized traffic routing and power cross-team experimentation capabilities.

Co-Founder & Lead Engineer, PlayUp

Jan 2021 - Aug 2025 (4y 7m)

Sports

React TypeScript Node.js Go MongoDB React Native TailwindCSS Terraform

- Solely architected, developed, deployed, and maintained the entire platform from initial concept through to achieving £300,000+ annual revenue, handling all frontend (React, React Native), back-end (Node.js, Go), database (MongoDB), and infrastructure (Terraform) aspects.
- Introduced rigorous code quality standards, comprehensive E2E testing frameworks, and automated CI/CD pipelines leading to a 30% decrease in user-reported bugs.
- Established an email microservice for monitoring email delivery, bounces, and complaints to enhance communication reliability, improve deliverability tracking, and proactively troubleshoot potential user notification issues.
- Engaged directly with users to address their concerns and shape upcoming features.
- Guided the engineering team in creating the React Native mobile application.
- Participated in all business facets such as product design, marketing, funding, and recruitment.

Full Stack Engineer, Chaeban

Jan 2020 - Jan 2021 (1y)

eCommerce

React TypeScript Node.js Express SQL

- Improved React customer-facing e-commerce site, reducing cart abandonment by 17% and boosting subscription service conversion by an additional 3%.
- Enhanced staff backend by implementing new features, such as automated reporting, date exports and streamlined order management tools, significantly improving workflow efficiency.
- Integrated Node backend system with company accounting, logistics, and delivery services to centralize data, automate manual processes, reduce data entry errors, and provide real-time inventory updates.

Full Stack Engineer, Trademark Technology

May 2015 - Jan 2020 (4y 8m)

Agency

React Vue.js JavaScript Swift SQL

- Spearheaded the design and development of a key client's first comprehensive digital presence, building their e-commerce platform and integrated systems, which was instrumental in their growth to a multi-national enterprise.
- Engineered and delivered complex full-stack solutions for larger enterprises and recognizable brands, encompassing integrated web (React, Vue.js) and native mobile applications (Swift), bespoke accounting/inventory management systems, and scalable event booking platforms.
- Consistently delivered robust, maintainable code for complex projects by implementing rigorous testing strategies, championing code reviews, and optimizing application performance to meet demanding client requirements.

Web Developer, Trademark Technology

Feb 2012 - May 2015 (3y 3m)

Agency

Laravel PHP WordPress MySQL

- Developed and maintained responsive websites, custom WordPress themes, and bespoke plugins for numerous small-to-medium-sized businesses and news aggregators, establishing their initial online presence and content management capabilities.
- Built and supported a variety of client web applications using core web technologies including PHP, Laravel, MySQL, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Delivered reliable web solutions by focusing on cross-browser compatibility, web standards adherence, and basic performance optimization, resulting in positive client feedback.

Projects

Edge Candidate Tracker <https://edgecandidates.co.za>

Next.js

TypeScript

PostgreSQL

TailwindCSS

Designed and developed a custom job candidate tracking system tailored to address the unique hiring challenges of a field marketing company managing recruitment for multiple positions. Improved efficiency and streamlined hiring processes, enabling better candidate management and faster decision-making.

Rift Companion

Swift

Node.js

Express

Redis

Developed a companion app for League of Legends, enabling users to view ranks, match history, detailed statistics, and live game information across multiple profiles. Achieved over 10,000 users within the first two days of release, demonstrating strong user engagement. The app was later discontinued.

More about me

Outside of work I...

like to play golf. It gets me off the chair, away from the computer, outside and allows me to shift my focus away from work and onto the game.

Interests

Sports (Golf, Football), Video Games, Technology

Right now I'm learning...

languages and technologies which I don't use for work. That includes Zig, Python, and exploring developing custom mechanical keyboard firmware.

Languages

English (Native), Afrikaans (Fluent), Spanish (Basic)