

David Townsend

Full-stack design engineer

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Summary

Design engineer with more than ten years on one FCA-regulated product, from founding engineer to founding product designer to owning large features end to end.

I take a problem from brief to iteration: research, prototype, backend, frontend, release plan, and the internal tooling that makes the team faster.

Recent work includes an AI-assisted bulk import system, an agentic pull-request reviewer used across the engineering team, and the design system and prototyping infrastructure a product team relies on.

Experience

Vestd

Full-stack design engineer 2025 to Present

- Own large feature projects from brief to iteration. Designed and built the data sheets bulk-import system, shipped as thirty small reviewed steps with no customer-visible half-state.
- Built and ran the QA Reviewer, an agentic AI pull-request reviewer adopted across the engineering team from launch, with a feedback loop that measures how engineers respond to every report.
- Built Prototype Lane so designers can ship prototypes into a shared preview environment safely, and cut preview deploys from eight minutes to six.
- Extended the design system with enforced empty states across 47 tables, a table fullscreen mode, and modal guidance.

Product designer, founding 2022 to 2025

- Founded the product design function and helped create the Product team.
- Created the bespoke design system and the in-product design guide that documents it.
- Led designer education and structured a design process tightly integrated with product and engineering flows.
- Owned research, wireframes, prototypes and high-fidelity design for desktop and mobile across a complex financial domain.

Software engineer, founding 2015 to 2022

- Co-authored the back-end systems that power an FCA-regulated equity platform. PHP, Laravel, MySQL, AWS.
- Built front-end systems in Vue that scaled from a handful of screens to hundreds.
- Led business-wide projects beyond engineering, including a CRM integration and IT support, and covered customer service when needed.

SpookStudio

Web developer 2012 to 2015

- Built client websites and applications at a design agency. Vestd began as a client project here, my first with Laravel and Angular.

Selected projects

- **Everybyway** Journey-tracking Android app in Kotlin with a PHP and Livewire companion site.
- **Jarvis** Hands-free voice relay between Android earbuds and running Claude Code sessions, in Python.
- **How to Die on Mars** Colony survival game in C# and Unity.

Skills

Design Product design, User research, Prototyping, Design systems, Figma, Accessibility

Front end Vue, TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, Playwright

Back end PHP, Laravel, MySQL, AWS, REST APIs

Tooling and AI GitHub Actions, Claude Code, Agentic workflows, Amazon Bedrock