

# Chris Lacey

Senior Software Engineer • React, TypeScript, Node

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## Skills

**Frontend:** React, TypeScript, Next.js, React Query, Vue 3, Pinia

**Styling:** CSS, SASS, Tailwind, Radix UI

**Testing:** Jest, Vitest, Cypress, Playwright

**Platform:** REST APIs, Vercel AI SDK, Okta

**Backend:** Node.js, SQL, Prisma, Drizzle

## Professional Experience

### Senior Frontend Software Engineer (Consultant)

**New Era Technology** | Apr 2022 – Present

#### Client: Altafiber / Hawaiian Telcom

- Served as primary frontend developer on a 6-person team, building a telecommunications e-commerce frontend with Vue 3 and Pinia and integrating with 20+ REST API endpoints for cart management, pricing, and order submission.
- Implemented complex state management for cart operations, promotional pricing calculations, and installation scheduling workflows, working closely with backend engineers on API contracts.
- Architected 48+ reusable components using a scalable composition pattern, including product carousels, multi-step checkout forms, and a calendar scheduling system with real-time availability.

#### Client: Eli Lilly

- Migrated key UI components (header, switch, toast, tooltip, video player) from Vue to React as part of a design system overhaul.
- Improved application performance and accessibility by reducing Cumulative Layout Shift through dynamic container queries, implementing error boundaries, and collaborating closely with accessibility experts.
- Maintained high quality standards for the internal component library by authoring Jest and Cypress tests, conducting peer code reviews, and actively participating in Agile ceremonies within a cross-functional team.

### Software Developer

**Periodic** | Mar 2020 – Apr 2022

- Built internal tools including a CSS editor saving 5–10 developer hours per sprint and an address-matching search app generating 6,000+ sales.
- Led development of the company's first end-to-end tests using Cypress, improving reliability and coverage.

## Selected Project

### Decision Assistant — AI-Powered Decision Tool (Personal)

- Engineered multi-query RAG pipeline with Reciprocal Rank Fusion and semantic chunking, improving retrieval relevance from 0.48 to 0.70+
- Architected streaming system separating fast mutations from async LLM actions, enabling optimistic UI with 100ms throttled token delivery and real-time message rendering
- Implemented 4-tier rate limiting (user/global message frequency, user/global token usage) with conservative token estimation before LLM calls
- Integrated Langfuse tracing across query refinement → RAG retrieval → LLM generation for full request observability with latency and token metrics

## Education

PhD Coursework, Italian Language and Literature — Indiana University Bloomington

M.A. Italian Studies — Florida State University

B.A. International Affairs — Florida State University