

# GARRETT "BEAR" WHISTEN

DESIGN SYSTEMS ENGINEER · PRODUCT DESIGNER

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## SUMMARY

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Design Systems Engineer and Product Designer with 6+ years shipping cross-platform systems used by tens of millions. Built and maintained the MetaMask design system (30M+ MAUs) and led the rebuild of GumGum's Concrete 2.0 across six products. Currently building Arcana UI, an open-source design system for AI coding agents.

## CORE SKILLS

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**DESIGN & UX/UI** Design Systems, UI Design, UX Research, Accessibility (WCAG), Prototyping, Visual and Interaction Design, Design Tokens, E-Commerce, Graphic Design, Typography, Theming

**FRONTEND DEVELOPMENT** Semantic HTML, modern CSS, JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Next.js, SCSS, Node.js, Jest, Three.js, React Native collaboration

**TOOLS & PLATFORMS** Figma, Adobe CC, Vercel, Shopify, GitHub, BitBucket, Jira, Netlify, Storybook (MDX)

**COLLABORATION** Documentation, Component API Design, Cross-functional Team Leadership

## EXPERIENCE

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### Arcana UI

Creator

February 2026 - Present

Open Source · [arcana-ui.com](http://arcana-ui.com) · [github.com/Arcana-UI/arcana](https://github.com/Arcana-UI/arcana)

- Open-source React design system purpose-built for AI coding agents (Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, Bolt, Lovable, v0).
- Three-tier token architecture (primitive, semantic, component) driven by a single JSON file. Describe a brand in plain text, get a complete design system in seconds.
- 14 theme presets out of the box including Terminal, Brutalist, Glass, and Neon.
- Built for AI consumption with manifest.ai.json, llms.txt, llms-full.txt, and MCP server support, so agents can build without reading docs.
- 100+ components across dashboard, marketing, editorial, and ecommerce use cases.
- Pure CSS custom properties. No Tailwind dependency. React and Next.js ready.

### Consensys (MetaMask)

Senior Design System Engineer

July 2022 - November 2024

Remote

- Built and maintained React and TypeScript component libraries powering MetaMask's web products and design tokens used across native apps (React Native), reaching 30M+ MAUs.
- Unified design tokens and component APIs across WebExtension, Portfolio, and mobile, cutting design drift and shipping consistent UI faster across teams.
- Wrote Storybook MDX docs and usage guidelines that engineers actually read, reducing component sprawl and one-off implementations.
- Set up CI/CD with Jest, e2e, and Lighthouse checks. Caught regressions before merge and kept accessibility at the front of the workflow.
- Translated Figma libraries into accessible, typed components. Worked with designers, brand, and engineering on a shared multi-platform toolkit.

### GumGum

Senior Product Design Engineer, Design System

July 2018 - July 2022

Santa Monica, CA

- Led the rebuild of GumGum's legacy UI into Concrete 2.0, a cross-platform design system adopted across six major applications and several internal tools.
- Owned design tokens, components, and patterns shipped via NPM. Sped up design updates and improved WCAG compliance across products.
- Redesigned and built the Ad Manager Dashboard, GumGum's core revenue platform. Conducted user research, shadowing, and UX audits to guide the work.
- Workflow and usability improvements cut operational headcount and saved meaningful cost.
- Aligned UX terminology and interaction patterns across internal tools and client-facing products so the company spoke one language.

**Rip Curl** eCommerce Content Manager / Front End Developer September 2016 - February 2018

Costa Mesa, CA

- Managed and developed the Rip Curl ecommerce site on Shopify. Shipped product launches, campaign pages, and daily merchandising updates.
- Wrote HTML, CSS, and JavaScript across the storefront. Worked with design, marketing, and merchandising to keep the site current.

**Stance Socks** eCommerce Content Specialist

April 2015 - September 2016

San Clemente, CA

- Managed product content, merchandising, and campaign pages on Shopify across global product launches.

## EDUCATION

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**Arizona State University** B.S., Communication

**University of California, Irvine** Certificate, Full Stack Web Development