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Software Engineer

I bring you experience not only in a variety of different programming languages and ecosystems, but different problem spaces and application architectures: software appliances, horizontally scalable NoSQL clouds, simple CRUD apps, enterprise services. I am looking for a position as an individual contributor position on a very strong team where I will tackle hard problems.

Skills

Most recently, **Python**. Previously, **Ruby**, **Java**, and **C**. I am familiar with **Javascript**, including React. I can work effectively with **object-oriented programming** and functional approaches to computation where feasible.

I am comfortable with **SQL** and **NoSQL** databases, including **PostgreSQL**, **MySQL** and **Apache Cassandra**. I have experience with **Linux** installation and administration, exposure to **Puppet**, **Ansible** and **Terraform**, and with cloud deployments on Amazon **EC2**; I regularly contribute to the infrastructure required to support my team's application development.

Experience

Cadre, Oct 2017 - present

Cadre's primary line of business is basically Kickstarter for \$25 to \$250 million real estate investment deals: a low-volume system with high-value transactions. Business-facing projects included: speeding up approval workflows by replacing spreadsheets with an automated workflow and a Slack integration; devising a pragmatic, but flexible, approach to recording customer onboarding information; and integrating third-party banking systems to improve the customer experience. Technical projects included enabling continuous deployment with on-branch preview (using Ansible and AWS) and introducing new patterns which redefined how the team organizes units of computation within our codebase.

"Everything you touch, you make better. Please keep doing it." —Leonid Movsesyan, VP of Engineering

GoCardless, Jul 2016 - Sep 2017

As a member of the Core Banking team at this YCombinator-backed startup developing a platform for recurring bank-to-bank payments, I refactored business critical code to facilitate the introduction of new payments schemes and to improve scalability of time-sensitive payment processing pipelines. I proposed and subsequently contributed to company-wide efforts to standardize the provisioning of developer environments, and to build institutional knowledge of software engineering practices and anti-patterns.

(I would have preferred to stay longer, but Brexit presented complications.)

During the first half of 2016, I spent time travelling: Copenhagen, Århus, London, Braşov, Madrid, Tulum, Havana, Lima, Iquitos, Santiago de Chile, and Buenos Aires.

ThoughtWorks, Nov 2014 - Dec 2015

As a **Senior Consultant**, I worked with my team to demonstrate and champion agile practices on two major assignments. The first featured a Java and JRuby-based inventory management system, with a RESTful interface backed by Apache Cassandra, at a major B2B automobile auction company in Atlanta. The second featured a JavaScript webapp backed by a Java backend as part of a quality-process management system targeted at the pharmaceutical industry. At these companies I developed tools to facilitate developer productivity, led refactorings which permitted legacy code to be reused for new software components, and improved the quality of code and of the test suite.

Shutterstock, Nov 2012 - Jun 2014

As a **Senior Software Engineer** at Shutterstock, a media licensing agency, I helped replace a legacy Perl codebase facing scalability and maintenance issues with a new services-based architecture backed by Ruby. I advocated for best practices and quality code, and was primarily responsible for the architecture of the code for a new stock photo review system.

Nearbuy Systems, Jun 2011 - Oct 2012

As a **Member of Technical Staff** at Nearbuy Systems, I designed and implemented near-real-time visitor analytics systems for physical stores, targeted at retail industry. While this principally involved Ruby and early versions of both Node.js and Apache Cassandra, there was also a large devops component with several exotic system administration duties in a distributed appliance/cloud architecture, including setup of point-to-point IPsec VPNs, OpenSSL CAs, and use of deep packet inspection technology for an analytics product.

(Nearbuy Systems was purchased by RetailNext in 2013.)

AirWave Wireless, May 2007 - Jun 2011

As a **Software Engineer** at AirWave, I worked in an Extreme Programming environment using object-oriented Perl (with occasional Java and C). The product was a multi-vendor network management system for wireless network devices. Among countless other projects, I was responsible for redesigning an IDS component called RAPIDS which was responsible for aggregating data about potential rogue network devices from multiple types of data; my work permitted the system to be parallelized, improving throughput and scalability.

(AirWave Wireless was purchased by Aruba Networks in May 2008, during my tenure. Aruba Networks has since been purchased by Hewlett-Packard.)

Education

It's been over twelve years, so honestly, this whole page is just here to be Extra.

Wake Forest University, 2003 - 2007

At Wake Forest I earned a **Bachelors of Science** in Computer Science, and contributed to the paper *Anomaly Detection Using Nonnegative Matrix Factorization* (published in **Survey of Text Mining II**, ISBN 978-1-84800-045-2).

I minored in studio art, with a concentration in fine-art printmaking.

Miscellaneous preprofessional experience, May 2001 - May 2007

Before graduating high school, I programmed servlets for the local university using state of the art technologies like **J2EE**, **XML**, and **XSLT**. Yes, that is Java 2! If I recall correctly, typed generics had just become available around this time, but we did not have use of them yet.

During my undergraduate studies, I maintained a PHP/Perl-based website and mailing lists for the Economic History Association, customizing Python-based mailing list software to meet the needs of their preferred academic workflows, and performing assorted systems administration tasks.

Finally, I interned with two of IBM's ExtremeBlue programs. The more interesting of these was to develop new system installation capabilities for Linux computers as part of their cluster systems management products. The less interesting of these at least resulted in **US Patent 7788063**, which contains several remarkable pictures and flow charts that I can recommend to an interviewer who has is approaching the end of a long read and is in need of a good laugh.

Other

In which I attempt to demonstrate some measure of **Personality!**

During my undergraduate studies I contributed to **Wikipedia**, and was ultimately appointed to a brief tenure on the Arbitration Committee, which played a substantial role in developing my intellectual outlook.

I enjoy cycling for pleasure, commuting, and fitness, often finding myself on the Hudson River Greenway, or proceeding from Prospect Park to Coney Island and onwards to Far Rockaway.

Since February 2019, I have been learning to play the **violin**; prior musical experience includes **cello** and **harp**, which are less effective at fitting inside a New York City apartment.

I enjoy writing and editing, and have opinions on style. I have used my coronavirus lockdown time to revisit an old hobby of baking **bread**.