Contact

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Top Skills

Ruby on Rails
TDD
Linux

Languages

Afrikaans (Limited Working)
English (Native or Bilingual)

Honors-Awards

Cultural Colours for Music
Chubb House Prefect
Certificate for 100% Pass Rate

Braden King

Lead Backend Engineer - Ruby
King's Lynn, England, United Kingdom

Summary

Started programming (in QBASIC at the time) when I was 12.
Launched Griffin Studios, a web design studio, while at university
(PHP & MySQL mostly). Partnered with a friend and built JuggleBee
(Ruby on Rails), one of Namibia's most popular auction websites,
still very active today. Moved to the UK, joined BigSofa Technologies
Ltd (now Lifestream Ltd) and worked my way to Lead Backend
Engineer (again, Ruby primarily).

Passion for TDD driven clean code, design patterns and best best
practices. Thirst for knowledge and skill development. Enjoy a a
good challenge.

Complimentary blurb of technologies used: Ruby, Ruby on Rails,
Sinatra, PHP, MySQL, Postgres, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Neo4J,
Linux, Bash, Amazon Web Services (AWS), JavaScript, jQuery,
HTML / HAML, SCSS.

Experience

Lifestream
6 years 1 month

Lead Backend Engineer
September 2022 - Present (9 months)
London, England, United Kingdom

Successfully converted a monolithic Ruby on Rails application into a
streamlined backend API utilizing microservices, resulting in the removal of
over 40,000 lines of legacy code.

Developed and implemented various microservices, including a language
transcription provider that leverages third-party transcription and translation
services, a python-built facial recognition and obfuscation service using pre-
trained YOLO data model, and a pipeline microservice responsible for batch
processing media.

Implemented a standalone IDP and SSO gateway, as well as Neo4j to capture media data points for better insights, and DynamoDB to improve performance on loading project dashboard data.

Established and documented pull request, issue creation, design, review, merging, and deployment processes, and maintained a StackOverflow Teams knowledgebase.

Facilitated a weekly developer meeting to promote knowledge sharing and team building, and designed the processes around the use of GitHub Projects to manage teams and sprints, including creating, scoping, timeboxing, and assigning tasks.

Senior Software Engineering - Ruby
September 2019 - September 2022 (3 years 1 month)
London, United Kingdom

Mid Software Developer - Ruby on Rails
May 2017 - September 2019 (2 years 5 months)
London, United Kingdom

JuggleBee
Business Partner & Software Engineer
March 2014 - Present (9 years 3 months)
Namibia

Developed and maintain JuggleBee (https://www.jugglebee.com), one of Namibia's most popular and trusted auction sites.

The web system was built using Ruby on Rails and integrated with many services such as:
- MixPanel for analytics and user interaction
- Small Invoice for automatically invoicing customers
- Cloudinary for image upload and manipulation
- Apostle.io for email

To date (May 2023), over 8,000 items have been listed for auction / purchase with a user base of over 9,100.

Westcosoft
Software Developer

November 2012 - January 2017 (4 years 3 months)
Swakopmund, Namibia

Developed a fully featured trucking management and logistics web software using Ruby on Rails. The system comprised of modules such as Human Resource management, Contact management, Vehicle management, Vehicle tracking, Operational management and more. A Ruby API was under construction to allow external sources to request and modify data.

The software was integrated with various external services such as:
- MixPanel for analytics and user interaction
- Cloudinary for image upload and manipulation
- Apostle.io for emailing
- BackBlaze for file storage
- FAYE publish/subscribe for server side process to communicate to clients
- BIRT (Eclipse) for reporting

Media and Software Studio
PHP Web Developer
2011 - 2012 (1 year)
Mombasa, Kenya

Assisted Media and Software Studio with the development and design of multiple websites and web-based software systems. Development was done using PHP with MySQL supported by the Kohana Framework.

Griffin Studios
Director
February 2008 - February 2011 (3 years 1 month)
Grahamstown Area, South Africa

I started Griffin Studios as a freelance web design studio servicing the clientele of Grahamstown, South Africa. Most of the work was for poster-style websites for various lodges, cafes and small businesses however, my largest commission was developing the website for Hoërskool P.J. Olivier, a local high school. It hosted dynamic content with a full custom build CMS.

Eastcape Midlands College
Lecturer
April 2008 - December 2010 (2 years 9 months)

Lecturer at Eastcape Midlands College in the following subjects:

- Electronics

- Computer Hardware and Software
- Data Communication and Networking

Rhodes University
ResNet Technical Support
January 2007 - November 2007 (11 months)

I was hired by Rhodes University to act as a technical support representative. My duties included assisting any student with computer related issues, from software configuration to troubleshooting hardware and other computer related problems.

Rhodes University
ResNet Representative
January 2006 - November 2006 (11 months)

I was on the house committee for Graham House, a residence at Rhodes University. My responsibilities were to assist any students within the residence with their computer related difficulties and issues.

Tsitsikamma Dairy Farm
Application Developer
September 2003 - September 2003 (1 month)

Developed a Delphi application with Database access to assist the dairy farm in managing their cows. Was a short project as it only took a few days to develop.

Education

Rhodes University
BSc (InfoSys), Information Systems, Computer Science · (2005 - 2009)

Kingswood College
Computer Science, Business Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, French · (2000 - 2004)