Kayla Ard

Full Stack Software Developer

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After a 14-year career as a college basketball coach, I moved into a career as a Software Engineer. Proficient in implementing diverse tech stacks, I am adept at leveraging my coaching background to quickly adapt to new technologies & meet project requirements effectively. With a strong foundation in leadership, teamwork, and exceptional communication, I thrive in collaborative environments, contributing to the success of the team with dedication & efficiency.

Skills

Languages: Python, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3

Frameworks/ Libraries: React, Flask, Bootstrap, SQLAlchemy, Django

Query Languages/ Databases: SQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Tools/ Dev Ops: Git, Github, RESTful APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets

Design/ Prototyping: Figma, Whimsical, Canva, WordPress Divi

Certifications:

- Coding Temple – Frontend Core Certificate, Backend Core Certificate, Backend Specialist Certificate
- Co.Lab – Software Development Certificate

Projects

Fixtrackr *(Django, Postgres, Git, GitHub, Render, Django REST Frameworks & Simple JWT Tokens, Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, React)*
[Link to GitHub Code]   [Link to Progressive Web App for Property Managers]   [Link to Tenant Website]

- Developed the tenant-facing website from the ground up, including both frontend & backend components using Django, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, & PostgreSQL.
- Engineered a robust RESTful API for the Progressive Web App (PWA) backend, managing authentication, unit registration, & maintenance request handling with Django REST Framework & JWT tokens.
- Designed & implemented the full backend architecture for the PWA, enabling property managers to track & manage tenant maintenance requests with real-time updates.
- Integrated secure image upload functionality for tenants submitting maintenance requests, ensuring proper validation & database storage.
- Deployed the backend on Render & the frontend on Vercel, handling all Git version control & maintaining continuous integration, ensuring both the PWA & tenant-facing website are live, fully functional, & accessible to users.

Advanced Blog API CI/CD *(Flask, Flask-SQLAlchemy, MySQL, PostgreSQL, GitHub Actions, Render, RESTful APIs, JWT, Swagger, unittest)*
[Link to GitHub Code]   [Link to Video/Images]

- Developed a robust CI/CD blog project using GitHub, PostgreSQL, and Flask API, with unit tests implemented using unittest.
- Built, tested, & deployed the application to Render, ensuring seamless integration & deployment.
- Validated API functionality and documented it with Swagger, enhancing usability & reliability.
- Modularized the codebase, added cache & rate limit services, & implemented CRUD operations for Users, Posts, & Comments with Flask-SQLAlchemy integration while including an admin role.
- Ensured API security by implementing JWS, maintaining robust authentication & data protection measures.

Full Stack E-commerce Application *(Python, Flask, HTML, CSS, React, Flask-SQLAlchemy, MySQL, React Router, React Hooks, React-Bootstrap)*
[Link to GitHub Code]   [Link to Video/Images]

- Designed & implemented a robust e-commerce backend using Python with Flask & Flask-SQLAlchemy, integrating with MySQL to manage customer & product data efficiently.
- Developed RESTful APIs for customer/product management, implementing CRUD operations for seamless data manipulation & retrieval.
- Created React components & utilized React Router to build a responsive front-end interface for customers & administrators to manage products, orders, & user accounts.
- Implemented form components, validation, & utilized HTML & CSS for frontend styling & layout customization, ensuring a polished user interface & consistent user experience.
- Utilized React & Bootstrap to enhance UI components (modals, forms, navigation elements) achieving a modern & responsive design.

Experience

Freelance Web Developer: *The Web Guardian* | Remote

AUG 2024 - PRESENT

- Designing and building custom websites using WordPress Divi, from simple landing pages to fully functional e-commerce platforms, tailored to client needs.
- Developing unique brand identities for clients, including logo design, color schemes, and typography to enhance website aesthetics and brand consistency.
- Providing ongoing website maintenance services, ensuring sites remain secure, optimized, and updated with the latest plugins and features.
- Collaborating with clients to create responsive, SEO-friendly, and visually engaging websites, leveraging Divi's customization tools to deliver high-quality user experiences.

Full Stack Developer Intern: *GenAI Consulting (Startup)* | Remote

SEPT 2024 - PRESENT

- Designing & developing a YouTube-like platform for AI education, handling all aspects of frontend & backend development.
- Collaborating with the GenAI Consulting team to integrate AI-powered features & tools, ensuring a seamless user experience.
- Leading the design process from the ground up, including logo creation, color palette selection, layout design, & prototyping for the platform's MVP.
- Writing high-quality, scalable code while participating in regular meetings to contribute to the overall development & growth of the platform.

Full Stack Developer (Freelance): *Fixtrackr (Startup)* | Remote

JULY 2024 - SEPT 2024

- Built & deployed a tenant-facing website using JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Python, & Django, enabling tenants to submit maintenance requests & track progress, with deployment on Render.
- Developed all backend functionality for a Progressive Web App (PWA) for property managers using Python, Django, PostgreSQL, & REST APIs, allowing managers to manage tenants, units, & maintenance requests.
- Collaborated with project manager, designer, & frontend developer ensuring seamless integration between the tenant website & the PWA.
- Implemented key features like automated emails & notifications, personalized tenant progress page links, and secure authentication using Django REST Framework & Simple JWT Tokens for the PWA.

Backend Developer Tech Residency: *Co.Lab* | Remote

JULY 2024 - SEPT 2024

- Blended software engineering & product development through collaboration with a team including a project manager, mentor, designer, frontend developer, while serving as the backend developer.
- Sharpened my resilience & problem-solving abilities by prioritizing the building process & navigating challenges confidently.
- Gained familiarity with Django & PostgreSQL, building & deploying projects using these tools.
- Progressed through thematic weeks covering all aspects of product development, from inception to final presentation.

Software Engineer Trainee: *Coding Temple* | Remote

APR 2024 - JULY 2024

- Developed full stack projects utilizing React for the frontend & Flask for the backend, applying coding principles.
- Adapted to new programming concepts and technologies, demonstrating the ability to learn & apply knowledge effectively under tight deadlines.
- Contributed to a group project that integrated third-party APIs, showcasing the ability to work with complex systems & modern tech stacks.

Head College Basketball Coach: *Utah State University*| Logan, UT

APR 2020 - APR 2024

- Led & motivated teams towards common goals, fostering a positive & productive environment.
- Collaborated with diverse individuals to achieve collective success, effectively conveying complex ideas & instructions.
- Developed strategies & made quick decisions in high-pressure situations, demonstrating problem-solving & adaptability.
- Analyzed player statistics & game footage to inform coaching decisions, akin to analyzing data & metrics in software development.
- Juggled multiple responsibilities, schedules, and priorities, optimizing team performance & maintaining detailed records and plans.

Education

Coding Temple, *Certification – Full Stack Software Engineer*
University of Phoenix, *Masters of Science in Psychology*
Southeastern Louisiana University, *Bachelors of General Studies*