

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

Tools/ Dev Ops: Git, Github, RESTful APIs

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

home haven (WordPress Divi, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Firebase(Authentication, Messaging, Mailgun, Cloud Functions) Bluehost, WP Plugins)

[\[Link to home haven website\]](#) (To explore the PWA use property manager login email "sarahsmith@yahoo.com" & password "abc123!!")

- Designed and built a full-stack PWA with a Firebase backend, utilizing Firestore for storing user data, maintenance requests, document storage, community board posts, maintenance history and notifications while ensuring real-time updates.
- Developed a "Companies & Contractors" rating system, allowing property managers to track and review contractors with feedback.
- Created an intuitive chat system with Firebase Cloud Messaging (FCM), enabling notifications and real-time messages between property managers and tenants.
- Integrated a custom pricing calculator, allowing users to input unit counts and receive instant pricing quotes.
- Optimized site performance by balancing plugin use with custom scripting, ensuring speed, responsiveness, and seamless user experience on both desktop and mobile.

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.

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

Owner and Freelance Web Developer: *home haven* | Remote

OCT 2024 - PRESENT

- Developed home haven, a progressive web app (PWA) for property managers and tenants using WordPress with the Divi theme, integrating custom JavaScript, HTML, and CSS alongside plugins to enhance functionality and user experience.
- Engineered interactive dynamic pages and UI components by leveraging Divi's features while incorporating custom-coded scripts to extend capabilities beyond standard plugin options.
- Implemented Firebase Authentication to support secure user roles (property managers and tenants), enabling real-time database interactions and cloud functions for automated app processes.
- Implemented automated email notifications with Mailgun and integrated real-time chat using Firebase Messaging.

Owner and Freelance Web Developer: *The Web Guardian* | Remote

AUG 2024 - PRESENT

- Design and build custom websites using WordPress Divi combined with custom JavaScript, Python, HTML, and CSS, from simple landing pages to fully functional e-commerce platforms, tailored to client needs.
- Develop unique brand identities for clients (logo design, color schemes, and typography) enhancing website aesthetics and brand consistency.
- Provide ongoing website maintenance services, ensuring sites remain secure, optimized, and updated with the latest plugins and features.
- Collaborate with clients to create responsive, SEO-friendly, and visually engaging websites, leveraging Divi's customization tools to deliver high-quality user experiences.

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

SEPT 2024 - DEC 2024

- Designed & developed a YouTube-like platform for AI education, handling all aspects of frontend & backend development.
- Collaborated with the GenAI Consulting team to integrate AI-powered features & tools, ensuring a seamless user experience.
- Led the design process from the ground up, including logo creation, color palette selection, layout design, & prototyping for the platform's MVP using WordPress Divi.
- Participated in weekly 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 and motivated teams, fostering a collaborative and goal-oriented environment while managing multiple responsibilities and optimizing performance through organization.
- Effectively communicated complex ideas to diverse individuals, ensuring clarity and alignment to achieve collective success.
- Developed strategies and made quick decisions under pressure, demonstrating problem-solving, adaptability, and analytical thinking.
- Analyzed player data and game footage to inform coaching decisions, paralleling data-driven problem-solving in software development.

Education

Coding Temple, Certification – Full Stack Software Engineer

University of Phoenix, Masters of Science in Psychology

Southeastern Louisiana University, Bachelors of General Studies