Kristen De La Rosa

Software Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

As a growth-oriented software engineer with a decade of teaching experience, I bring a unique ability to break down complex problems, communicate effectively, and adapt quickly, all essential skills in software development. My background has honed my critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership, enabling me to develop technology that delivers measurable business value and exceptional user experiences. Thriving in fast-paced startup environments, I was part of a startup from its pre-seed stage through Series A, gaining firsthand experience in scaling products. I quickly adapt to build high-quality, scalable solutions that align with company objectives and customer expectations. My focus on user engagement, intuitive design, and cross-functional collaboration ensures the creation of user-friendly products that drive retention and satisfaction. Beyond engineering, I founded and chaired the first Employee Resource Group (ERG), fostering an inclusive workplace culture, and contributed to the Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) guild, strengthening system resilience. I am currently enhancing my AI expertise through a specialization in Applied Generative AI, with a focus on real-world application, agentic frameworks, and enterprise-scale GenAI deployment.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Front-End: JavaScript, React, Redux, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, SASS, Mantine

Back-End/Database: Google Firebase, Supabase, Node.js, Express, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, SQL, Hasura GraphQL, C#

Tools & Platforms: AWS, GitHub (Version Control), Datadog, Jira, Figma

Testing & Debugging: Jest, Playwright, Storybook, Postman, Chrome Developer Tools, Insomnia

Generative AI Tools & Concepts: ChatGPT, LangChain, Hugging Face, RAG, Prompt Engineering, Azure AI Studio, Transformer Architecture

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Purdue University: Applied Generative AI Specialization: Expected August 2025
- Emphasis on prompt engineering, transformer architecture, and deploying GenAI applications

EXPERIENCE

Highlight - Software Engineer I

July 2022 - November 2024
- Contributed to the growth and development of a pre-seed startup, playing a key role in product development, team collaboration, and strategic decision-making, helping the company successfully secure Series A funding.
- Spearheaded the development of critical product features using React Typescript, and Node.js ensuring seamless UI/UX while maintaining consistent communication with product managers and key stakeholders.
- Collaborated with quality assurance to implement end to end testing, promoting whole team quality practices across engineering teams enhancing software quality and reducing defects.
- Developed automated tests using Jest and Playwright, increasing test coverage from 60% to 90% and reducing post-deployment bugs.
- Developed and optimized API integrations with RESTful and GraphQL endpoints, ensuring efficient data fetching and caching strategies to improve and maintain scalable and maintainable architecture..
- Utilized Next.js API routes to handle server-side logic within a React application, reducing dependency on external backend services.
- Designed and implemented a scalable Redux architecture for state management, reducing unnecessary re-renders and improving application responsiveness.
- Integrated Storybook into the development workflow, providing interactive documentation for reusable components, improving adoption among developers.
- Achieved DORA Elite status across 4 engineering teams.
- Partnered with customer success and product teams to identify and deliver high-value features, accelerating growth and market expansion
- Led cross-functional collaboration, analyzed feature performance post-release, and synthesized user and stakeholder feedback to drive continuous improvement.
- Translated product requirements into actionable tasks for the development team, providing clear guidance and technical support throughout the development lifecycle with Figma, and Jira.

- Contributed to the company's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) collaboration guild by developing and refining monitoring and alerting systems using Datadog, enhancing observability to proactively detect and resolve potential system failures.
- Founded and chaired the company's first Employee Resource Group (ERG), aligning initiatives with the company's mission to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- Designed, led, and executed company-wide events focused on cultural awareness, professional development, and social impact, boosting employee engagement and DEI awareness.

2U - Full Stack Web Development Program - Senior Learning Instructor
June 2021 - July 2022
- Served as a subject matter expert on the full stack curriculum, supporting universities across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and South Africa by providing technical expertise in JavaScript, React, and Node.js.
- Guided and coached students serving 46 universities worldwide, by clarifying conceptual syntax, conducting thorough code reviews, assisting with pseudocode, and advising on debugging strategies using Chrome Developer Tools.
- Diagnosed and resolved over 50 bugs per month using Jest, Insomnia, and React Developer tools, enhancing the integration between front-end components and back-end services while maintaining a high satisfaction rating among peers.
- Managed junior learning assistance schedules and trained staff in debugging techniques and effective coding communication via Slack and GitHub.
- Consistently achieved a 95% developer satisfaction rating in code reviews and debugging over the seven months, demonstrating expertise in problem-solving and technical guidance.

Rutgers University Full Stack Bootcamp - Teaching Assistant
March 2020 - November 2021
- Led comprehensive code reviews and facilitated interactive, activity-based workshops to enhance student learning and coding proficiency.
- Developed and maintained structured teaching materials, including class repositories and installation guides for MySQL, MongoDB, NPM packages, and Insomnia, ensuring seamless student onboarding.
- Demonstrated and applied key full-stack concepts by developing JavaScript applications deployed on servers, integrating APIs, implementing DOM manipulation, test-driven development, and designing robust client-server architectures.
- Guided students through debugging processes using Chrome Developer Tools, teaching effective troubleshooting strategies to resolve complex coding issues
- Fostered a collaborative remote coding environment through Zoom and Slack, encouraging teamwork and peer-to-peer learning.

Livingston Public Schools - High School History Teacher
October 2017 - July 2021
- Cultivated a decade-long career in education by fostering continuous learning, encouraging collaboration, and conducting regular academic proficiency reviews to drive student success.
- Engaged in professional development seminars and workshops to refine and implement innovative teaching methodologies.
- Regularly collaborated with school counselors and parents through verbal and written communication to provide updates on student progress, class schedules, and key test dates.
- Led the adoption of innovative technologies, including technology-based assignments and student response systems, to enhance engagement and diversify instructional approaches.

EDUCATION
- Purdue University, Applied Generative AI Specialization: Expected August 2025
- Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals: Generative AI: Expected August 2025
- DeepLearning.AI, Generative AI for Everyone Certificate: February 2025
- Rutgers University, Full Stack Certificate: March 2019 - August 2019
- King's College, Bachelor of Arts History and Education: August 2006 - May 2010

ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER
- Delivered a company-wide presentation on exploring AI tools and their potential for driving business evolution and innovation.
- Volunteered as a Front-End Developer for Hack for LA's 311 Data project, supporting Neighborhood Councils in using public 311 data for better initiative planning and analysis.