Hi, I'm Blake!

I'm a full stack software engineer with strong history of building and scaling products. I put my deep passion for learning into everything I do and love working with passionate teams where creativity, learning, and problem solving are highly valued!

EMPLOYMENT // PROJECTS

Flip
JAN 2016
flip.lease

Head of Engineering

I worked with Flip from the early days and joined their small team as the second engineer. As expected with early stage startups, I worked full stack to design, develop, implement, and launch features.

As the product and team grew, I took on the Head of Engineering role and shifted towards establishing higher level patterns to keep the codebase/product organized and solved more complex backend engineering/architectural problems. Outside of regularly delivering features, some larger contributions include:

- Laid the foundation and managed large refactors for TypeScript and GraphQL migrations
- Planned database schema migrations, normalization, and performance optimizations
- Problem solved scalability issues by optimizing Node.js and AWS cloud resources
- Established patterns for multiple refactors of the backend and frontend codebase
- Integrated well over 20 third party services such as SMS/email, PDF rendering, and banking/payment services
- Handled code reviews and ensured proper patterns were followed to minimize tech debt
- Managed and collaborated with engineers on growth, frontend, and data science tasks

Coolhouse Labs
APR 2014

Head of Product

I was Head of Product for Coolhouse Labs startup accelerator during the summer 2014 and 2015 cohorts. Both summers, I put together a small team of designers and developers to work closely with the cohort while advising the companies on all things product development and strategy.

SKILLS: Project Management, Hiring, Product Advising, Marketing, Strategy

ScoreStreak
FEB 2014

Full-Stack Developer

I joined ScoreStreak as a frontend developer primarily tasked with converting their existing traditional server-side rendered website to a modern single page app using Backbone.js. Towards the end of the contract, I was jumping in on implementing features full-stack.

SKILLS: Backbone.js, HTML/SCSS, Rails

Nimia
AUG 2012
nimia.com

Full-Stack Developer

I was Nimia's second developer hire, initially brought on as a backend developer. After working on backend tasks and familiarizing myself with the large product for the first 6 months, I took over frontend development, rebuilding and redesigning the existing Backbone.js app and implementing new features.

SKILLS: Python/Django, Backbone.js, HTML/LESS, API Development, Redis, Socket.io, AWS

⭐ (1) = Effective   ⭐⭐ (2) = Often efficient   ⭐⭐⭐ (3) = Highy efficient

Backend Development   ⭐⭐⭐

TypeScript (3), GraphQL (3), Node.js (3), Python/Django (2), Ruby/Rails (1)

Frontend Development   ⭐⭐⭐

HTML (3), CSS3/SCSS (3), React (3), SSR (3), Webpack (3), Backbone.js (2)

Dev Ops, Architecture, Infrastructure   ⭐⭐⭐

AWS, Github Actions, TravisCI, CircleCI, Anisible, Database Management, SQL, PostgreSQL, Serverless Architecture, Realtime Architecture, Git

Other

Sketch, UI/UX, Project/Team Management, Strategy & Advising, Hiring, Swift/iOS Development, Third Party Service Integration

EDUCATION

Bradley University, Class of 2012

Bachelor of Science in Interactive Media – Web & Application Design

3.6 GPA

ITT Technical Institute, Class of 2009

Associate of Science in Software Application Programming

3.8 GPA

REFERENCES

Roger Graham

CTO @ Flip.lease

Blake is the perfect combination of the "fast hacker" and the "thoughtful engineer". He's the fastest engineer I've worked with, yet few people are able to create products from scratch with more attention to detail and self-awareness than Blake.

He became the "voice of sanity" in our company, where nearly any high level product discussion landed on Blake to make a final call. He's able to deeply embed himself in the work without developing the tunnel vision that most people are so prone to. That skillset allows him to consistently make objectively great product calls, and our product has succeeded largely as a result of his work.

roger@flip.lease

Drew Koszulinski

Co-worker @ Coolhouse Labs, UI/UX Designer

Blake and I first worked together when he hired me as a designer in residence for startup accelerator program in 2015. Since then we've worked together on numerous contract projects and side projects. Blake churns out flawless code, has a strong design understanding, and thrives in an environment where product quality is the highest priority.

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"Do what you love and do it often."

"Life is about the people you meet and things you create with them."

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