Tobias Pfeiffer

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About

I am a leader & full-stack engineer deeply interested in agile methodologies, web technologies, software crafting and teaching. I'm happiest when I can remove blockers for the the team and the client. I am fascinated with the human side of software development and love creating products that help people. I create and contribute to a variety of open source projects, engage in a multitude of community events, and enjoy attending and speaking at conferences.

Twitter/X
PragTob

GitHub
PragTob

Blog
PragTob

Work

Remote   04/2021 — 10/2023
Senior Staff Engineer (18 months) / Staff Engineer (13 months)

Working on a big Elixir & Phoenix monolith with a focus on the payments domain, automating processes to ensure safe, quick & reliable payments while improving processes and technology company wide.

- Implemented multiple features to help our payments efficiency and product offering: autamtic invoice payments, automate salary payments integrating with the bank via PAIN XML files, enable direct debit for huge sums & allowing non local currencies
- Design and Implementation of central payment projects aiming to incorporate more providers
- Most senior engineer for a long time, involved in high level technology decision making
- Introduced Background Job System to guarantee reliable asynchronous execution
- Improved processes such as branching strategy (death to long lived branches!) and the RFC process itself
- Advocated for hiring non Elixir engineers & setup a training camp and mentoring structure to help them succeed

Shopify   08/2020 — 03/2021
Staff Developer

Engineering Lead for a team working on topics ranging from local market adaptation, to legal and delivery promise.

Self-employed   08/2019 — 07/2020
Freelance Leader, Developer & Consultant

Consulting, Teaching and Development.

- Helped a company develop their first Elixir project, introducing the technology to the team
- Work on a complex microservice metrics visualization application
- Open Source Work on SimpleCov thanks to Ruby Together
- Consult on the design, architecture & implementation of an open source project, including implementation

Liefery   11/2017 — 2/2019
Tech Lead (de facto Head of Engineering)

Led a team of 15 together with the CTO, handling the day-to-day needs of the team.

- Helped, mentored & guided colleagues through 1o1s, pairing sessions, pull request reviews and knowledge sharing sessions
- Ran retrospective and iteration meetings, continously adapting and improving processes
- Architected and designed features with the squads
- Monitored application performance and fixed performance problems
- Screened and interviewed candidates
- Gathered problems and requirements to define and discuss solutions
- Ran integration projects with customers and other involved parties

Liefery 01/2017 — 11/2017
Senior Software Developer (de facto Team Lead)

Helped operations and partners deliver packages on the same day.

- Built and maintained applications to track shipments, plan tours and manage all required logistics data in Ruby on Rails, Elixir and Phoenix as well as JavaScript (AngularJS, React)
- Stepped in for the CTO during a sabbatical
- Identified and fix performance bottlenecks
- Ran retrospective and others meetings

bitcrowd 01/2015 — 10/2016
Software Engineer

Built applications, helping companies blossom. Worked as part of a team or team lead on customer projects big and small. Introduced practices such as retrospectives and CI-servers and mentored juniors.

Self-employed 05/2013 — 09/2018
Part-Time Freelancer

Occassionally projects related to teaching programming, such as an introductory course at Humboldt-University Berlin.

Community

Conferences 05/2012 — current
Speaker, Program Committee Member & Organizer

I like to speak at conferences to share knowledge and spread ideas. I have spoken at conferences such as Ruby On Ice, Lambdadays, Polyconf and Full Stack Fest (overview of my talks). I also helped organize JRubyConf & eurucamp 2015 and was a member of the program committee of GOTO Berlin 2014.

Open Source 08/2011 — current
Creator, Maintainer & Contributor

I live and breathe Open Source and contribute to a variety of projects. This is a selection of bigger projects I maintain.

- **benchee** a powerful and extensible benchmarking library for elixir and erlang
- **simplecov** the popular ruby code coverage tool
- **Shoes** an easy to use GUI toolkit written in JRuby that I also worked on as part of Google Summer of Code

Ruby User Group Berlin 10/2012 — current
Main Organizer

A monthly meetup about Ruby and related technologies, with anywhere between 40-120 attendees. Co-created the Berlin Code of Conduct to ensure and promote a safe environment.

Rails Girls / code curious 06/2012 — current
Coach & Mentor

Rails Girls helps to diversify the tech community by helping beginners to get in touch with programming. I coach at workshops and since 2013 I also coach a weekly project group, the rubycorns, helping attendees grow into Juniors & beyond.

Education

Hasso Plattner Institute / Blekinge Institute of Technology (Erasmus) 2008 — 2014
🎓 **Bachelor & Master in IT-Systems Engineering**

Final grade: 1.2 (A), Specialization in Software Architecture, Internet Security, agile & distributed software development

Skills

Enginneering Practices

- agile Software Development (XP/Scrum)
- Test Driven Development (RSpec, ExUnit, Jasmine...)
- Pair Programming
- Version Control (git)

Programming

- Object Oriented Programming (Ruby, Smalltalk)
- Functional Programming (Elixir, functional JavaScript)
- Web frameworks (Ruby on Rails, Phoenix)
- Design Patterns

Leadership Skills

- Run and moderate meeetings such as Retrospectives
- one-on-ones
- Mentoring and Teaching
- Empathy
- Eye for process improvements and bottle necks

Web Development

- JavaScript
- React
- Angular
- HTML
- CSS

Languages

German

Native speaker

English

Full working proficiency

Swedish

Limited working proficiency

French

Basic knowledge