

Alex Birdsall

FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPER

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I care about solving problems and I hope to build beautiful, logically interesting things, working in a team that cares about ethics, collaboration, simplicity, and user experience.

Jul '24–Dec '24 Artisan

python	I most recently worked as a full-stack developer at Artisan, a pre-
FastAPI	series-A startup automating sales outreach that proved not to be a
postgresql	good fit for my values. In my time there I wore many hats, working
DigitalOcean	on every part of the stack to quickly ship a wide variety of projects
docker	to production. I designed and built complex new features, including
typescript	a full rewrite of the lead outreach sequence model from a hardcoded
react	three-email sequence to fully custom workflows supporting
	branching logic, and added outreach through external services,
	requiring custom authentication as well as complex scheduling, rate-
	limiting, and error handling logic. I also handled cloud
	infrastructure issues, database modeling and performance
	optimization, and working on the react UI.

Aug '22–Mar '24 Airbyte

typescript	At Airbyte, I worked on a variety of projects in a primarily frontend
react	role. I consistently worked to improve code quality in the company's
cypress	react web app; shipped the UI for a DBT cloud integration on an
python 3	extremely tight schedule; restructured the cypress end-to-end test
java	suite and rewrite its build system to allow better code reuse and
GCP cloud	type safety; and expanded the feature set of Airbyte's Connector
storage	Builder, including both improvements to its complex and dynamic
GCP firebase	editing UI, and backend updates to both its java server endpoints
auth	and the python low-code connector CDK which parses user-authored
	connector definitions.

Feb '20–May '22 Indiegogo

typescript	As a full-stack developer at Indiegogo, I helped rewrite the legacy
rails	checkout UI from angularJS to vue; implemented a new suite of
elixir/phoenix	Cypress integration tests, improving speed, cost, reliability, and DX. I
vue/nuxt	personally designed and implemented a total rewrite of the
cypress	advertising metric system campaigners rely on after a facebook
redis	policy change; this required significant code changes, high-volume
GCP BigQuery	async job processing, and close coordination with nontechnical
AWS Redshift	stakeholders both internal and external. I played a key role
AWS Lambda	designing and building a new product to help campaigners manage
	inventory, shipping, and communication. The site significantly
	outperformed the main Indiegogo website while minimizing the
	learning curve for other devs.

Jul '17–Oct '19 SigFig

typescript	Working primarily as a frontend engineer at a digital wealth
scala	management startup, I helped redesign the build system of a large
angularJS	whitelabeled typescript app to use ES2015 modules and manage
frontend builds	dependencies with npm or yarn; I converted thousands of files to the
react	new system during the migration. I personally refactored the build
A/B testing	system to remove its gulp dependency, dramatically simplifying
	configuration work. I also designed the frontend A/B testing API and
	rewrote its integration with a 3rd-party assignment backend, using a
	more modular design to decouple internal code from the
	idiosyncracies of that vendor. I helped launch a new typescript/react
	frontend application, including work on its Scala REST API.

Aug '16–Jun '17 Legal Information Institute, Cornell Law

ES2015	Cornell Law School picked up the Lawfetcher project, rebranding it
build scripts	as RIO (Read It Online) and hiring me to maintain and expand it. I
browser caching	refactored and completed test coverage of the domain logic; wrote
	code to parse a broader set of citation types and link to more
	sources; converted the build process to transpile modular ES2015
	application code and tests; and implemented a filename
	fingerprinting system to manage browser caching, enabling both
	frequent, iterative code deployment and efficient loading.

Jan '17–Jun '17 **The Emoji Dictionary**

php 7
Apache
build scripts
SEO

As a consultant, I did freelance work for The Emoji Foundation's crowdsourced Emoji Dictionary. The work focused on human-readable URLs, rewriting database queries and building indexes for clarity and efficiency, and other SEO and performance fundamentals, as well as extracting shared templates and refactoring old code for better semantics and maintainability.

Jan '16–July '16 **Flock**

Rails 4
Middleman
SCSS
encryption &
authentication

As software engineer for an HR and compliance startup, I worked with the entire stack from stylesheets to server ops. I maintained statically-built marketing sites as well as its Rails app. I personally implemented secure and user-friendly integrations with TraxPayroll and Greenhouse.io, which involved complicated data mapping, multiple forms of encryption, and, at times, working with out-of-date and contradictory documentation.

Aug '15–Dec '15 **Lawfetcher**

JavaScript
regular
expressions
browserify

A freelance project in collaboration with Emeritus Prof. Peter W. Martin of Cornell Law. A free tool for legal writing, it semantically parses US legal citations and programmatically builds direct links to the full text in various free and subscription services.

Jan '15–Mar '15 **Magoosh**

MySQL
Rails 3
CoffeeScript
HAML
Bootstrap

I worked a contract job with Magoosh, a leader in online test prep based in Berkeley. I shipped new features in their Rails app, including auto-tagging for support tickets, an instructor dashboard, an in-house A/B testing library, and a photo upload system.

Jul–Sept '14 **Dev Bootcamp**

Programming & web fundamentals
git & *nix CLI
Ruby & Rails
JavaScript, HTML, & CSS

An immersive 19-week web development program. Over the final 9 weeks alone, I worked over 1000 hours at the San Francisco campus in an intensely collaborative environment that emphasized hands-on learning, empathy, communication, and problem-solving.

Nov '12–Jun '14 **Portland Community College**

While working as an art teacher, independently pursued interests in Statistics and Computer Science. Where I discovered how much I enjoy programming.

Class of '08 **Cornell College**

B.A. in English, minor in Music. Received 2007 Winnifred Van Etten Award for Creative and Scholarly Excellence.

Though seemingly unrelated, my studies centered on an interest in how human expression exists within and is influenced by logically analyzable systems like syntax, music theory, or grammar. I have found this to be surprisingly good preparation for the work of programming.