

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.

Feb '20–May '22 **Indiegogo**

typescript	As a full-stack developer at Indiegogo, I helped rewrite
rails	the legacy checkout UI from angularJS to vue;
elixir/phoenix	implemented a new suite of Cypress integration tests,
vue/nuxt	leading to faster, cheaper test runs, fewer test flakes,
cypress	and improved developer experience. I personally
redis	designed and implemented a total rewrite of the
	advertising metric system campaigners rely on after a
	facebook policy change, which required significant
	frontend changes, extremely high-volume async job
	processing, and close coordination with nontechnical
	stakeholders both internal and external. I played a key
	role designing and building an upcoming product to
	help campaigners manage inventory, shipping, and
	backer communication. I specifically owned the new
	product's frontend architecture and testing strategy.
	With its Elixir backend and an aggressively
	prerendered vue frontend, the site performance
	dramatically outperformed the legacy Indiegogo
	website while using similar technologies to minimize
	the learning curve for other devs.

Jul '17–Oct '19 **SigFig**

typescript
scala
angularJS
frontend builds
react
A/B testing

Working primarily as a frontend engineer at a digital wealth management startup, I helped redesign the build system of a large whitelabeled typescript app to use ES2015 modules and manage dependencies with npm or yarn; I converted thousands of files to the new system during the migration. I personally refactored the build 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
build scripts
browser caching

Cornell Law School picked up the Lawfetcher project, rebranding it as RIO (Read It Online) and hiring me to maintain and expand it. I 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 As software engineer for an HR and compliance
Middleman startup, I worked with the entire stack from stylesheets
SCSS to server ops. I maintained statically-built marketing
encryption & sites as well as its Rails app. I personally implemented
authentication 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 A freelance project in collaboration with Emeritus
regular expressions Prof. Peter W. Martin of Cornell Law. A free tool for
browserify 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 I worked a contract job with Magoosh, a leader in
Rails 3 online test prep based in Berkeley. I shipped new
CoffeeScript features in their Rails app, including auto-tagging for
HAML support tickets, an instructor dashboard, an in-house
Bootstrap A/B testing library, and a photo upload system.

Jul–Sept '14 **Dev Bootcamp**

Programming & web An immersive 19-week web development program.
fundamentals Over the final 9 weeks alone, I worked over 1000 hours
git & *nix CLI at the San Francisco campus in an intensely
Ruby & Rails collaborative environment that emphasized hands-on
JavaScript, HTML, & learning, empathy, communication, and problem-
CSS 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.