# Ben Church

Polyglot Engineer & Team Lead

## Info

**Phone**
778-676-1588

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me@ben.church

## Skills

Elixir / Phoenix

Javascript / Typescript

React.js

React Native

GraphQL

Project Management

Team Management

Hiring

Postgres

Go

Express.js

AWS / GCP / Heroku

Python / Django

Swift

C# / .Net

Distributed Systems

Functional Programming

ETL Pipelines

Docker / Kubernetes

## Profile

Hi! My names Ben. Currently I'm an Elixir & React consultant through ShipWIthUs. In the recent past I've been the Head of Engineering at Future Pet and prior to that I was a Development Lead at Metalab crafting projects for the world's most creative brands and startups. My forte is **React**, **Elixir**, **Functional Programming** & **Distributed Teams.**

If you'd like to understand more about myself, my writing, or my projects you can find me at any of my usual haunts on the internet:

- ben.church
- github.com/bechurch
- medium.com/@bnchrch
- linkedin.com/in/bnchrch
- twitter.com/bnchrch

## Employment History

### Consultant, Ship With Us Ventures

Sep 2019 — Present      📍 Remote

https://shipwithus.io

I'm currently assisting growing technology companies build and market their core products. I've been involved in everything from building bespoke Elixir, Haskell and NodeJS applications to helping with hiring pipelines to demoing products live on stage at launch events.

**Milestone Moments:**

- Built Fission's live from your laptop VSCode Extension
- Delivered a distributed event sourcing concept using IPFS and OrbitDB
- Created a customer binary build pipeline to deliver production Haskell binaries across all major platform package managers.
- Designed and Developed Magic Number's call recording and transcription web application.

**Technologies Employed:**

Elixir, Phoenix, Haskell, React, Typescript, NodeJS, AWS, GCP, Azure, Kubernetes, Heroku, IPFS.

**Primary Focus:**

Programming, Project Scoping, Hiring, Marketing

### CTO & Lead Engineer, Future Pet

Sep 2017 — Sep 2019      📍 Remote

https://futurepet.care

I was brought on at Future Pet to transition their flagship product away from an external contracting company to an in-house Engineering team. After two short months we successfully hired a team of talented Engineers and smoothly moved all development work over. A success on all accounts.

Since then we have shipped 3 new products as well as integrated an existing system and team from our sister company GoFetch.

**Milestone Moments**

- Hired and Managed an successful engineering team of 6
- Architect-ed a scaleable and resilient ETL pipeline to load data from Clinic servers around North America.
- Implemented a solution to our version of the GraphQL N+1 problem which reduced API request times by ~40%.
- Navigated the acquisition and integration of an existing in-market product and team. Reducing infrastructure costs by > 90 %.
- Built the first version of our mobile payment and telehealth applications in React Native.
- Created a custom boolean template language allowing the business team to implement complex logical gates for to whom and when Appointment surveys were sent.
- Released a custom reverse proxy solution to help our teams switch between survey tools seamlessly based on request payload shape.

**Technologies Employed:**

React.js, React Native, Apollo, Elixir, Phoenix, Golang, Postgres, Node.js, Express.js, Vue.js, Typescript, AWS, Heroku, GCP, Redis, Python.

**Primary Focus:**

Hiring, Team Building, Management, Functional Programming, ETL Pipelines

## Lead Developer, Metalab

Dec 2016 — Nov 2017      Remote

https://metalab.co

Metalab, the company that designed Slack, has an impressive list of world class clients that demand the highest quality in Product Development. My role at Metalab was to take these interesting projects and make them a reality. I was responsible for the scoping, architecting, managing, developing and in the end delivering the final product in a manner that met our own high standard of quality.

**Milestone Moments:**

- Successfully transitioned the internals of your favorite Elasticsearch dashboard from backbone.js to redux
- Built 2 of 3 messenger bots showcasing Facebook's latest login and eCommerce functionality in its Messenger SDK. Demo'd live at their F8 conference and built to scale accordingly.
- Used Elasticsearch as a custom datastore to create a highly scalable and flexible internal asset management system for your favorite ride sharing app.
- Implemented a flexible PubSub notification system to service push notifications and email delivery for Trip's by Lonely Planet.
- Managed the architecture, dockerization, and client hand off of the backend systems for Trips by Lonely Planet.

**Technologies Used:**

React.js, Redux, Mobx, Flow, Backbone, Elixir, Phoenix, Postgres, Node.js, Express.js, AWS, Heroku, Docker, Kubernetes

**Primary Focus:**

Project Management & Scoping, Functional Programming, NLP interfaces, Reusable Design, Distributed Systems

## Software Engineer, Pandell

Aug 2015 — Dec 2016      Calgary, AB

https://www.pandell.com

Worked across multiple teams to deliver highly customizable expense tracking and GIS mapping software for over 50 clients.

**Technologies Used:**

C#, .Net, TypeScript, JavaScript, Knockout.js, Gulp.js, MS-SQL

## Software Engineer, Semadic

Aug 2013 — Jul 2015      Victoria, BC

At Semadic I was a member of a highly talented team developing a modular and customizable social eCommerce system to power multiple products.

**Technologies Used:**

Python, Django, CoffeeScript, Nose, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Hadoop

## Co-Founder, Local

Jun 2014 — Mar 2015      Banff, AB

I was a member of a two man team who took the vision of a better local travel experience based upon your immediate area and translated into a working and well designed iOS app in just over a month.

**Technologies Used:**

Javascript, Express.s, Postgresql, Objective C, iPhone SDK

# Notable Publications

## Facebook Messenger Bots for F8

Jan 2017 — Feb 2017      San Francisco, CA

https://about.fb.com/news/2017/04/messenger-f8/

Worked with Facebook to develop a set of best practises for an upcoming version of the Messenger Platform for their development community. From here we developed a set of Messenger Bots for the Facebook team to demonstrate the capabilities of their latest features at their annual conference: F8.

I personally delivered two bots. The first was to showcase  persisted authentication and realtime capability through a simple Grocery list app that multiple people could edit at once. The second demonstrated how you could have a fully functional eCommerce experience inside Messenger, complete with checkout and payment.

These were met with great reception, the grocery list app in particular, handling over a million requests in the first day.

## Trips by Lonely Planet

Mar 2017 — Aug 2017    Nashville, TN

lonelyplanet.com/trips

Worked with Lonely Planet and the rest of my Metalab team for months to bring a beautiful and new idea of a way for Traveler's to share their unique experiences with the world to market.

I personally oversaw the backend team implementing this wonderful app. Ensuring the project was delivered on time and to spec. As well as rolling up my own sleeves to build out authentication flows, pubsub notification systems, schema modeling as well as dockerizing the app for use in our clients infrastructure.

## The Big Elixir: Let Business Write Business Logic

Nov 2019 — Nov 2019    New Orleans, LA

https://by.ben.church/Lexers-and-Parsers:-Letting-Business-Write-Business-Logic/

Spoke at The Big Elixir conference in New Orleans. Giving a talk on Erlang's lexer and parser generators with the purpose of demonstrating how easy it is to create a templating language for less technical teammates to use.

# Education

## University of Victoria, B. Sc. Computer Science

Sep 2010 — Dec 2015    Victoria, BC

Specialization in Software Engineering

Specialization in Human-Computer Interaction

# References

## Available on Request

lonelyplanet.com/trips