Ben Zhang

Bachelor of Computer Science, 2A

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Skills & Qualifications

- Four years' web development experience with LAMP full-stack responsibilities.

- Proficiency in JavaScript developed through personal projects; experience in React, Node.js, MongoDB, and Docker.

- Good understanding of the Git version control system from experience in the workplace and side projects.

- Working knowledge in C++, Python, OCaml, Racket, Bash, PHP, C, Ruby on Rails, Rspec, Selenium, Nix, Go, SQL, HTML, CSS (Sass & Less), and Travis CI.

Experiences

- **Backend Web Developer**   Waterloo, ON
  Kik Interactive - Chat Community   *Jan. 2017 - Apr. 2017*
  - Took ownership of a key microservice and optimized code base to handle a 5x increase in traffic.
  - Designed and implemented two additional microservices that directly align with Kik's focus of creating a safer community.
  - Reimplemented core moderation logic using task queues, which vastly reduced server timeouts.
  - Rebuilt an internal metrics system to triple the amount of information available.
  - Introduced Firebase to dev.kik.com to replace the deprecated Google Channel API.

- **QA Software Engineer**   Toronto, ON
  500px - Photography as a Service   *May. 2016 - Aug. 2016*
  - Fixed critical bugs in the automation system; eliminated frequent inconsistencies in testing.
  - Updated and expanded deprecated Continuous Integration (CI) tests using Rspec and Selenium.
  - Implemented a Slack notification system to report build statuses to developers.
  - Developed a tool to catch unexpected UI changes based on screenshots.
  - Designed an automated system to keep track of flaky specs in the CI test suite.

- **Web Project Manager**   Waterloo, ON
  PackAnts - Real Time Local Package Delivery   *Jan. 2016 - Apr. 2016*
  - Coordinated a web development team to create a user-facing online platform.
  - Utilized React and Docker from development to testing to production.

Projects

- **Vocode**   *Feb. 2016*
  - An 100% voice-enabled, Javascript-based text editor. Powered by Nuance's Natural Language Understanding API.
  - First place winner of the Nuance API prize in McHacks 2016.

- **Silent Sync**   *Mar. - Apr. 2015*
  - Developed and published an Atom.io package in CoffeeScript.
  - Automated the synchronization of local files with remote servers.
  - Downloaded over 500 times since initial launch.

Education

- **University of Waterloo**   Waterloo, ON
  Candidate for Bachelor of Computer Science   *2015 - 2020*
  - Dean's Honours List (Jan. 2016)
  - President's Scholarship of Distinction (Mar. 2015)