Ben Zhang

(Some also call me "Chuan Tian")

ben.zhang@edu.uwaterloo.ca in /in/benjaminz

(7)ben-z

TL;DR

- Received an "Outstanding" (highest) evaluation on University of Waterloo's coop system during every work term.
- Able to quickly adapt to and thrive in many different types of work environments through experiences at companies of all sizes.
- Practical understanding of embedded systems and real-time programming obtained through building a real-time microkernel from scratch in CS 452 (Real-Time Programming, aka "Trains").

Serious Stuff

Software Engineer (Intern) @ Apple Inc.

"He is a self motivated, focused engineer who strives to look at problems in depth..."

May 2019 - Aug. 2019 Cupertino, California

- Implemented bandwidth prediction infrastructure and bandwidth recording optimizations that improved the time to reach HD and UHD tiers by over 30% in Apple's HTML5-based HTTP Live Streaming video player.
- Created a Media Source Extensions conformance suite to streamline the certification process for external hardware.

Software Engineer (Intern) @ Hive.AI

"Ben is the best intern we have ever had on our team and one of the strongest engineers at the company."

Jan. 2019 - Apr. 2019

San Francisco, California

- Rewrote a data export pipeline and over 50x'd the speed for large exports by making use of idle resources and optimizing caching and concurrency.
- Invented a polygon consensus algorithm using vertex-voting and multi-density clustering techniques. This algorithm landed the company multiple large-scale projects.
- Implemented a Node JS Streams library with batching, bucketing and concurrency control capabilities.

Frontend Developer (Intern) @ Yahoo!

"...Though this was a lot of additional work, he did it all with a smile."

Jan. 2018 - Apr. 2018 Sunnyvale, California

- Migrated most of Yahoo Mail's settings pages from plain Redux to Yahoo's in-house Action Syncer architecture, which greatly accelerated the development of offline capabilities for the entire Mail platform.
- Designed a system to allow a React component to capture an arbitrary element's scroll event, enabling developers to better implement a consistent and intuitive user experience.
- Implemented a new flow for the vacation response settings page and added the ability to add images, GIFs and emojis to automatic replies. This was featured in a TechCrunch article.

Backend Developer (Intern) @ Kik

"Ben has undoubtedly excelled at the role he played within our organization."

Jan. 2017 - Apr. 2017 Waterloo, Ontario

- 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.

Languages & Frameworks



Not-So-Serious Stuff

Vocode (Hackathon Project)

- 100% voice-enabled, Javascript-based text editor. Powered by Nuance's Natural Language Understanding API.
- First place winner of the Nuance API prize at McHacks

(H)open Source (Hackathon **Project**)

- Platform to connect nonprofit organizations with volunteer software engineers.
- Won the Moxtra API prize at HackTheNorth 2015.

Waterloo Warriors Band (nontechy, ongoing)

- Lead trumpeter
- Deputy Chief Centurion (Vice-president) and Technomancer (Webmaster)