Ben Walker

Software Engineer

Portland, OR US

✉ ben.walker.dev@gmail.com

in ben-walker-45044340   ⌂ benwalk

A hard-working, analytical computer scientist who values leadership, ingenuity, diligence, and education. The best things in life are great documentation, easy-to-use software, and easy-to-work-with people.

SKILLS

Programming

bash golang java javascript

python scala

Backend

apache dropwizard graphql

maven mongodb nodejs

postgresql spring struts 2

Frontend

bootstrap css material ui

reactjs

Platforms

aws cloud foundry kubernetes

Tooling

concourse github actions

jenkins terraform

WORK EXPERIENCE (4)

Senior Backend Engineer at Simple Finance **September 2019- Current**

http://simple.com/

Fostered development and cross-team collaboration on backend microservices (Scala, Java, with AWS RDS PostgreSQL), with an emphasis on leadership, mentorship, and being a force-multiplier for the team. Architected and launched a solution with a 3rd-party integration for digital direct deposit, before taking a deep dive into Simple's infrastructure to build out a new self-service oriented infrastructure platform designed to reduce overhead of maintaining legacy home-grown infrastructure tooling (BOSH deployments of Cloud Foundry serving AWS services and resources) and drive the Engineering organization towards more modern dev ops practices.

Backend Engineer at Simple Finance **April 2018- September 2019**

http://simple.com/

Developed and maintained backend microservices (Scala, Java, with AWS RDS PostgreSQL), contributing to company wide initiatives around one of Simple's key product features (protected accounts and savings tools). Lead architectural changes for the same products, and stewarded the adoption of Jira and agile based workflows.

Software Engineer - Backend Java at Jive Software **June 2017- March 2018**

http://jivesoftware.com/

Focused on developing the Jive platform (Java, Spring, Struts 2) and related components of Jive's next-generation architecture, including microservices (built with Dropwizard, Guice, Hystrix, JUnit, and ReactJS) that leverage AWS offerings (S3, RDS, DynamoDB). Practiced Agile (Scrum) and continuous integration (Git, Stash, Jenkins) development methodologies.

Software Engineer - Tools at Jive Software **May 2014- June 2017**
http://jivesoftware.com/

Focused on developing customizations to the Jive platform using the Jive plugin framework (Java, Spring, Struts 2). Built a microservice to support plugin and add-on customizations using full Javascript stack (NodeJS, MongoDB, Bootstrap) that integrated with 3rd party applications such as Salesforce, JIRA, and PagerDuty. Practiced continuous integration (Git, Stash, Jenkins) development and was responsible for product management and project management for these tools.

EDUCATION (1)

Bachelor of Science Computer Science at University of Portland
2008 - 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Extracting Episodic Memory Feature Relevance Without Domain Knowledge in BICA 2011
31 December 2011

Episodic memory provides many important capabilities to a cognitive architecture. One of the challenges of creating a general episodic memory system is to be effective when given no information about the agent's task. In this paper, we present an effective algorithm for detecting the relevance of the features of episodic memories while only being told when an agent completes a goal. We demonstrate this algorithm using an episodic learning agent in a task that provides the agent with a mix of relevant and irrelevant features. The episodic learner outperforms a variant Q-Learning algorithm that has proven effective in the past.

INTERESTS

Board Games

heavy strategy   minis-on-a-map

space opera   thematic

worker placement

Bicycling

fixed gear   single speed

three speed sturmey archer

Building Science

electrical   green   hvac

insulation   plumbing

residential

REFERENCES

" Ben is one of the most thoughtful people I have ever worked with. He thinks about the impact his actions have on himself (makes sure he is growing), on his team (makes sure he is doing the things that support them best), the company (making sure he is working on the right priorities in the most beneficial way) and the customers (he really gets how what he does impacts the users). Ben likes to learn and grow and is organized, responsible and a wonderful glue to a team. If it is something he is interested in, I think Ben would also be amazing at management. But, really, he's probably good at whatever he sets his mind to doing. "

Hadas Cassorla, JD, MBA, CISSP

" Ben was one my most reliable and low maintenance engineers that I managed. I worked with him as a colleague first, and was super impressed by his technical abilities and his instincts in tackling technical problems and bugs. When I managed him, under tough times at our company, he continued to grow into a fantastic backend engineer. He would serve well on any team where there is a need for an engineer that doesn't get rattled, and a need for someone that has an ever growing understanding of software engineering concepts and principals. "

Patrick Stoneburner