MATT BESSEY

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bessey.dev
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TECH SKILLS

EXPERT
Ruby, Rails, Sidekiq, RSpec, Sass, Git, SQL, Capistrano, GraphQL, JS, React, Apollo, DataDog

GOOD
Styled Components, Redux, Ember, AWS EC2, Docker, Twilio

WISH LIST
Elm, Elixir, Kubernetes, Reason

TECHNICAL INTERESTS

GraphQL
Performance Optimisation
Site Reliability
DevOps
Domain Driven Design
Functional Programming
Design / UX

REFERENCES

Steve Fram
Former CTO @ Caring.com
steve@tachnafram.com

Tim Sullivan
Former VP of Product @ Caring.com
timfsull@gmail.com

WHO I AM

I am a Senior Software Engineer who specialises in Ruby on Rails, based in Bristol, United Kingdom, I work remotely for a US based client and have done for 2 years. I am seeking full-stack remote work primarily in Ruby, where I will be expected on a regular basis to work autonomously on tough problems, handle new system architecture and existing system refactors, mentor and lead other engineers, and assist PMs with longterm product feature planning, as well as planning greenfield projects.

EXPERIENCE

(2013 - Present) **Senior Software Engineer**, **Caring.com** San Mateo, California
- Designed and maintained for 2+ years a GraphQL API for our core Rails monolith, that is now the primary interface for the majority of clients, receiving ~850k requests per day. Maintenance has included instrumenting with APM software to identify and rectify performance pitfalls from memory over-allocation, N+1 queries, and embarrassing parallelism I/O opportunities. In addition, wrote a production schema comparer script that runs in CI to prevent breaking changes from being released mistakenly.
- Worked in a small team to replace off the shelf call centre software with disappointing SLAs with an entirely in-browser Twilio powered Rails application used daily by ~100 sales staff, all remotely, from all over the US and the Philippines. The application was developed and launched in under 6 months, quickly proved more stable than the commercially available product it replaced, and is still used largely unchanged 4+ years later.
- Architected and built a fully featured and highly interactive CRM for these sales staff in Rails + React + GraphQL + Redux Saga. The application enables staff to, while on the phone to customers, record their information, saving it in realtime, and displays the best senior living facilities in their search location, for their needs, based on our ML predictor service's response. Results reorder in realtime as more information is entered.
- Prototyped an Airbnb style realtime map based search experience for senior care, using server-side rendered React to allow for rich interactivity without affecting SEO or initial page load time. This project required developing an algorithm to obfuscate senior living cost data to Yelp style "$$$" in a way that keeps these *relative* cost ranks stable as the map is panned and results enter / leave.
- Cut effective CI test times for our primary Rails monolith from 45 minutes down to 8 while reducing cost ~30% by moving us from Travis to Circle CI, and optimising the CI workflow by moving to a "build once + test 10x parallel" system. With CircleCI we are able to auto-balance the workloads of our parallel test workers such that as tests are added and removed, each worker adjusts the portion of the test suite it is responsible for to keep it's runtime at 1/N of the total, with no human intervention.
- Interviewed candidate engineers, and after hiring mentored them, by reviewing their code, and pairing with them. We have often hired engineers with no prior Ruby experience and gotten them to a proficient level with no outside training.
- Hosted presentations to the whole engineering department to demonstrate new technologies I had researched that showed potential to solve technical problems at Caring, often resulting in their successful adoption.
- Provided much highly valued input to product managers on the design of future product developments, informing the direction of our core products, and bringing entirely new revenue streams to the business.

OSS CONTRIBUTIONS (GITHUB)
brillo - ActiveRecord based developer database scrubber and loader gem
vscode-rufo - VS Code extension to provide support for rufo, the Ruby formatter

EDUCATION

(2010-13) University of Bristol, **Computer Science BSc with 1st class honours**