

Brad Melin: Product Engineer

[proto.club](#) / brad@proto.club / +49 151580 12364

I'm a generalist with over a decade of experience who cares deeply about user experience at all levels: from customers using an intuitive product to other engineers using obvious APIs. I enjoy identifying areas of a codebase or product that need improvement and working on them, and including others if extra skills are required; but since I have experience across the stack I am often able to take action immediately. I take pride in being able to reduce problems and solutions to a simple state, and view this as one of the fundamental requirements of building and delivering software.

Because I'm relatively outgoing, have a wide range of interests, communicate well, and don't take myself too seriously, I tend to connect easily with many people in an organisation, which enables me to be an effective teammate and leader. I enjoy mentoring junior engineers, sharing knowledge with technical and non-technical people alike, and participating in hiring.

I'm currently working on fast graph processing at my day job, and in general I'm interested in automating human-intelligence tasks, which has led me to study machine learning on and off over the past few years, particularly using neural networks and natural language processing.

Experience

System lead at [Fraugster](#), a fraud-detection startup

October 2020 - present

- Leading development, product, and adoption of graph processing across the company.
- Building tools for machine learning and analytics teams to help them simulate and model fraud.

Tech stack: Go, Parquet, Presto / Athena, Kubernetes, Helm, Kafka.

Staff software engineer at [Bain & Company](#), a management consultancy

September 2019 - September 2020

Technical lead on projects that solved business problems for large corporates, and coached data scientists in my team to be more effective programmers.

Key project:

- Increased a client's revenue by working on a machine learning + web application to help minimise arbitrage of their products across the European market.

Tech stack: Python, React.

Full-stack engineer and technical team lead at [Luno](#), a cryptocurrency exchange and wallet

February 2018 - August 2019

Learned a lot just by being part of a scaling startup, including how to lead a cross-functional team, and maintaining company culture during rapid growth. I fell completely in love with Go, and learned how to be a good technical interviewer. Created and delivered a series of talks to help train our non-technical staff on the tech that we used.

Key projects:

- Decreased customer support requests by designing and implementing a far better search for our help centre, using latent semantic analysis.
- Led a successful overhaul of our website and web app, which required staged rollout and rollback, and touched every part of our stack.
- Designed our first ETL pipeline for ML training, with reproducible runs and easy parameter updates. Used Go for orchestration and Python for model training.

Tech stack: Go, TypeScript, MySQL, gRPC, Protocol Buffers, Angular, AWS, Jenkins.

Co-founder and consultant at Octarine

June 2016 - January 2018

Built a small software design and development studio from scratch. I was responsible for many parts of the business, including payroll, finances, hiring, and training. Managed the entire lifecycle of projects, from pitching to delivery.

Full-stack engineer at [Logimeter](#), a telecommunications company

November 2014 - January 2018

Hired as a front-end developer to build their AngularJS app, but soon began working with Python and Django in earnest. I mainly worked on development, infrastructure and maintenance of their application code and telecommunications infrastructure. Around this time I started to develop an interest in using statistical methods to build production features.

Full-stack engineer at [Firing Squad](#), a web design agency

March 2012 - October 2014

Freelance HTML, CSS, and JS web site development

December 2011 - Feb 2012

Technical writer at [Laragh Courseware](#)

November 2010 - November 2011

Open-source contributions

- [Django SQL Explorer](#): [Added Django 2.0 compatibility](#)
- [Django](#)
 - [Fixed a bug in contrib.postgres](#)
 - [Added the StrIndex database function](#)
- [Open edX](#): Various bugfixes and improvements
- [REM unit polyfill](#): [Added media query support](#)

Education

- Licensed Scrum Master at [Scrum Inc.](#): January 2020
- [Deep Learning, a 5-course specialization by deeplearning.ai on Coursera](#): October 2018 - April 2019
- Bachelor of Arts at the University of Cape Town: 2007 - 2009
 - Dual major in psychology and English literature

Languages

English: Native. German: Intermediate. Afrikaans: Elementary.