

Benjamin Toll

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<http://www.benjamintoll.com>

<https://github.com/btoll>

- Over 15 years experience of frontend and server development
- Significant experience with building applications and frameworks
- Worked for both large companies and startups, including in Silicon Valley

Experience

Consultant Princeton, MA

January 2017 - Present

I'm currently working independently with several clients focusing on:

- Elm
- Golang
- C
- JavaScript / React
- PHP
- Linux server administration

Constant Contact Waltham, MA

Senior Software Engineer, January 2016 - January 2017

Hired to work on the email editor, the most visible product of the company.

- Primary developer on the automation test project. Used Ramda and introduced the team to FP concepts such as currying, partial application, function composition and pure functions.
- Refactored several major applications and mission-critical features that had stalled or not been delivered due to over-engineering and/or bugs.
- Did many cross-team knowledge shares and code reviews on topics such as FP in JavaScript, git blame, git hooks and submodules, sed and bash history expansion, currying, etc.

Volunteered personal time to assist and mentor.

Sencha Inc Redwood City, CA

Frameworks Engineer, May 2013 - December 2015

Worked on the Ext framework as part of a remote team. My primary role was that of enhanced engineering.

- Fixed bugs that had been escalated by the Support team and/or by customer request.
- Patches (and tests) would then be merged into core.
- As the last stop in the escalation chain, worked on bugs that were very difficult and esoteric.
- Selected by manager to maintain viability of older product releases.
- One of the top framework contributors in the history of the company.

In addition, worked on new framework features and other projects within the company.

- Primary developer on the improved gridfilters API that shipped starting with Sencha 5.
- Resurrected the Sencha Fiddle project with my manager and developed several iterations of a working prototype before handing it off to its current maintainer.

Volunteered personal time to assist and mentor.

Sencha Inc Redwood City, CA

Senior Support Engineer, June 2011 - April 2013

Hired when the department was first created and was the second support engineer added to the team. This was an engineering job and within the purview of the engineering department. All solutions were provided in code and patches to the framework were encouraged.

- Process support tickets generated by customers. This meant everything from answering general questions about the framework and web development to (more usually) providing patches to fix a specific problem.
- As a senior member of the team was one of three team members that would be assigned the difficult escalated tickets to resolve.
- Promoted to the Ext frameworks team.

In addition, did a lot of work that was not part of my role or expected of me as a support engineer to help the team and the company. Examples include writing and maintaining tools that were used not only by the team but across the company. These included git extensions and bash tools, shown here:

<https://github.com/btoll/git>

<https://github.com/btoll/tools>

<https://github.com/btoll/support>

Volunteered personal time to assist and mentor.

Yahoo! Sunnyvale, CA

Technical Yahoo!, November 2009 - May 2011

Worked on the Connected TV team. JavaScript running on TVs.

- Developed new applications to run on networked TVs.
- Contributed to the KONtx framework (<https://developer.yahoo.com/connectedtv/kontxapiref/>).
- Principal maintainer of several high profile applications (eBay, NFL, Y! TV).

- Very active in forums.

Because there were no GUI devtools like that in the browser to help debug a program, became very good at thinking through problems and all iterations of them to try and anticipate bugs, which has helped tremendously in every role since.

GoDaddy Phoenix, AZ

Web Developer, January 2009 - November 2009

Worked on the ecommerce team as the sole frontend developer.

Education

University of New Mexico, BA, History, 1996 - 1999

- 3.93 / 4.00
- summa cum laude
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Phi Alpha Theta

Other Interests

- math
- privacy
- teaching