ALEXANDRA CHAKERES

BACK-END ENGINEER

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SUMMARY

Nothing gratifies me more than breaking down a complex problem and solving it. As a proponent of scalable, reliable, and sustainable software architecture/design, I galvanize those around me to create better quality software for both customers and fellow developers. In addition to my technical competencies, I collaborate well with cross-functional teams, mentor junior engineers, and take on technical leadership and project management roles. I'm the person my team goes to for debugging help.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer - Blinker (06/2020 - 02/2023)

Top contributor at a small auto sales/financing platform company. Started out as an individual contributor, and grew into a mentor, technical lead, product liaison, and project manager.

Tech stack: Elixir/Phoenix (core competency), GraphQL (core competency), React/TypeScript (familiar), Docker/Kubernetes/AWS (familiar)

Accomplishments include:

- Helped the business pivot after our largest customer left by spearheading the redesign of the data models with cross-functional teams to align the system with business needs using an architecture based on Domain Driven Design. This resulted in a significant reduction of coupling and of the engineering hours required to add new products.
- Established design patterns that enforce separation of concerns, robust data pipelines, thorough unit & integration testing. Set up tools to flag PRs that reduce test coverage or make breaking changes to API contracts.
- Appointed as Technical Lead for several large projects. Collaborated with product to thoroughly define scope (including edge cases) and technical approach. Broke down product requirements into small single-purpose engineering tickets, accurately estimated engineering effort/schedule, and managed projects by prioritizing work.
- Improved user experience by proactively monitoring production logs and the error tracking system, optimizing slow database queries, and resolving the majority of bugs before they were reported by users.
- Created an inclusive, safe, and collaborative work environment by instituting regular retros, mentoring junior developers, and improving documentation. Consistent practice of thorough PR reviews. Encouraged team involvement in architecture discussions.
- Optimized third-party integrations by researching and prototyping to mitigate scarce documentation.

Junior Software Engineer - DispatchHealth (09/2019 - 06/2020)

Back-end engineer for a growth-phase healthcare startup. I collaborated on design, as well as implemented and maintained APIs. I worked on a small team, so I touched all parts of the app and was involved in architectural/process discussions and decision-making, as well as deployment and production troubleshooting.

Tech stack: Elixir/Phoenix microservices, Ruby on Rails main application, REST APIs, React/JavaScript Accomplishments include:

- Solved several complex defects that had caused multiple rollbacks by writing scripts to simulate user behavior (making appointments, cars driving around town, etc).
- Spearheaded capturing API documentation and setting up mock servers. This resulted in clear API contracts for outside contractors, easy-to-use documentation for internal engineering teams, and enabled decoupling of front- and back-end tickets.
- Addressed technical debt. For example, used downtime to optimize inefficient database queries, DRY up repetitive code, and address recurring errors in the production logs.
- Thoroughly defined requirements and interfaces with outside contractors & offshore teams. Took the lead on communicating API contracts, expectations, conclusions, and action items to follow up on.

Process Engineer - AECOM (01/2013 - 03/2019)

Worked as a consultant that managed client projects, integrated with cross-functional teams, and designed solutions that optimized technical performance, regulatory requirements, and costs.

Process engineering lead / main client contact / project manager. Designed & debottlenecked chemical processes (refineries, natural gas, and novel technologies). Determined appropriate technologies to produce the desired products. Optimized for cost and compliance with safety & environmental concerns. Simulated chemical and physical processes. Licensed as a Professional Engineer (P.E.).

SKILLS

Languages/Frameworks: Elixir/Phoenix, PostgreSQL, GraphQL & REST APIs, websockets, Ruby on Rails, Docker, JavaScript, TypeScript, React

Systems/Practices: agile/scrum, functional programming, object-oriented programming (OOP), microservices, clean code, Test Driven Development (TDD), Git, GitHub, CI/CD, documentation, Domain Driven Design (DDD)

EDUCATION

Turing School of Software & Design Back-End Engineering (03/2019 - 09/2019)

University of Colorado at Boulder MS Chemical Engineering (08/2010 - 12/2012)

Washington University in St Louis BS Chemical Engineering (08/2006 - 05/2010), Valedictorian