

CHRISTOPHER STIPES

Engineering Leader | Strategic Planning | Team Management | Innovation

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SUMMARY

Passionate Software Engineering leader with 10+ years of experience delivering value to users with data processing pipelines and robust, scalable backend APIs. Optimized SDLC end to end with both UI tests and BE integration tests as an SDET leader and quality advocate technical lead. Skilled at breaking down complicated requirements with business stakeholders into MVPs that can deliver results and then be setup to iterate. Experienced in working with both small and large teams across multiple projects and companies.

EXPERIENCE

Digital Receipts Tech Lead

Fetch Rewards 04/2024 - 07/2025 Birmingham, AL

- Scaled receipt ingestion pipeline to process 1.5-2M digital orders daily by adding new data sources, delivering a high-performing and reliable data product.
- Revamped the mobile UX to grow to over 4.5 million unique active monthly digital receipt scanners.
- Reduced incidents from multiple per month to near-zero by enforcing observability, automation, and CI/CD shift left quality tooling.
- Dockerized Go-based integration tests, embedding them into CI/CD pipelines.
- Built a real-world data library for receipts by leveraging customer event streams into Snowflake, enabling robust automated test data setup.
- Presented monthly at company-wide tech all-hands with Grafana dashboards to highlight KPIs, improvements, and challenges impacting quality metrics.
- Leveraged GenAI tools to make receipt purchase data available internally for the sales and GTM teams.

Director of Quality Engineering / SDET

Fetch Rewards 11/2022 - 04/2024 Birmingham, AL

- Directed a QA organization of 40+ staff and 4 managers, implementing best practices and leading automation initiatives.
- Established automation testing frameworks (Appium, Playwright, Go/Python), integrating them into CI/CD pipelines for continuous validation.
- Built a scalable test environment strategy, driving cross-platform testing across iOS, Android, backend, and web applications.
- Spearheaded initiative to go from monthly mobile releases to weekly by collaborating with iOS, Android, and QA teams resulting in 99.99% crash free users.
- Led POCs for new automation frameworks, scaling successful pilots and delivering hands off test data setup systems.
- Reduced manual testing efforts by 80% through automation frameworks improvements.
- Acted as a liaison with product, engineering, and business teams to ensure alignment and collaboration with the QA org.

Engineering Manager

Shipt 10/2020 - 11/2022 Birmingham, AL

- Led a cross-functional team of 10 engineers (mobile, web, backend, ML/AI) to deliver scalable ad-tech platforms.
- Re-architected systems for high availability and multivendor support and grew ad revenue by 15% to over 25 million annually.
- Introduced API contract/schema validation at build time, embedding quality into CI/CD pipelines and reducing integration issues.
- Increased ad revenue ~15% through product reliability and placement optimizations.
- Replaced multiple modules of a Ruby monolith with more scalable Go microservices, reducing latency to sub 100ms.
- Wrote custom feature flag service that allowed us to test ad placements faster to maximize ad revenue and reduce user friction

KEY IMPACTS

- Receipt Processing Enhancement
Increased daily receipt ingestion by 50%, processing 2 million orders with 1 million distinct users a day.
- Ad Revenue Growth
Boosted ad revenue by 15% through new ad partner integration and CMS layer to add placements without code changes.
- Data Quality Improvements
Optimized data ingestion monitoring with real-time checks for fields to drastically improve downstream purchase data quality for partners.
- Mobile Release Optimizations
Streamlined QA workflows to move from monthly to weekly iOS and Android releases.

LANGUAGES AND FRAMEWORKS

Go	Python	AWS	Ruby	Docker
End-To-End Testing		GitHub	Grafana	
GraphQL	Java	Jenkins	JIRA	Kafka
Kubernetes		Load Testing		PostgreSQL
Python	Redis	Ruby	Scrum	Selenium
Slack-bots		Snowflake		GitHub Actions
Microservices		gRPC	Appium	DynamoDB
In-Memory Caches		Kubernetes-based		

EXPERIENCE

Engineering Manager/SDET

Shipt

📅 06/2018 - 10/2020 📍 Birmingham, AL

- Introduced Cypress and Detox for end-to-end testing across platforms
- Replaced Postman-based testing with embedded Go and Ruby test frameworks for backend services
- Built Locust + Grafana load testing framework integrated with CI/CD reporting
- Designed automated data validation system for product ingestion and search relevance

Lead SDET / Backend Engineer

Guidewire Software

📅 06/2015 - 06/2018 📍 Birmingham, AL

- Improved testing efficiency by {25%} by developing a new automation framework for mobile and web using Appium and Selenium.
- Created Excel-based automated test data tooling for recurring test scenarios.
- Integrated performance and load testing (Artillery) into microservice templates.

EDUCATION

B.a

University of Alabama - B.A

📅 2007 📍 Tuscaloosa, United States