CHRISTOPHER STIPES

Hands-On Engineering Leader | Innovation | Team Management

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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.
- Secured millions of email and site credentials and PII data.
- 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

- Managed a QA organization of 40+ staff and 4 managers, implementing best practices and leading automation initiatives.
- Embraced QA in the loop on the validation tools of AI/ML models using frameworks to benchmark and measure output accuracy.
- 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.

SUMMARY

Hands-on Software Engineering Leader with 10+ years of experience building and scaling backend systems, data pipelines, and APIs that power high-volume user experiences. Proven success leading cross-functional teams across backend, mobile, web, and data to deliver reliable, observable, and performant platforms. Adept at translating complex product needs into clear engineering roadmaps, mentoring engineers through modern Go and Python architectures, and driving operational excellence through automation, CI/CD, and metrics. Passionate about shipping pragmatic solutions fast, iterating on real data, and fostering a strong engineering culture that values ownership and velocity.

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.

EXPERIENCE

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.

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

LANGUAGES AND FRAMEWORKS

Go   Python   AWS   Ruby   Docker

End-To-End Testing   GitHub   Grafana

GraphQL   Java   Jenkins   JIRA   Kafka

Kubernetes   Load Testing   OAuth

PostgreSQL   Python   Redis   Ruby

Scrum   Selenium   Slack-bots   Snowflake

GitHub Actions   JavaScript   Microservices

gRPC   Appium   DynamoDB

In-Memory Caches   Kubernetes-based