



David Celis Backend Engineer

📍 Portland, OR ⚡ he/they 📧 me@davidcelis.com ☎ +1 (813) 468-9737
🔗 davidcelis.com 🐾 davidcelis.com 🐞 davidcelis.com 🌐 davidcelis@xoxo.zone

ABOUT ME

I'm an empathy-driven backend engineer specializing in designing elegant APIs with a keen eye toward usability and maintainability. I strive for a user-first approach, understanding that people come from a variety of backgrounds that differ from my own, while also producing readable, well-tested, and well-measured code. Outside of work, I'm an avid Open Source Software advocate. I've maintained several open source libraries and have contributed to many more, including Ruby on Rails, bundler, Discourse, Hanami, and fish.

SKILLS

Ruby — Rails, Sorbet

API Design — REST, GraphQL

Git — GitHub

SQL — PostgreSQL

WORK

Freshworks / FireHydrant, Senior Staff Software Engineer

I began as a Staff Engineer at FireHydrant leading the Incident Management team, our largest product team, and maintained a highly collaborative partnership with our manager and head of product to guide the team's roadmap, architecture, and overall process/health. After a promotion to Principal Engineer, I held similar responsibilities across our entire engineering organization and lead large-scale projects. Most recently, I helped lead development of FireHydrant's alerting and on-call product, Signals, both designing and implementing several of its most key systems. Signals lead to a 10x increase in customers and 6.4x ARR growth over two years, directly leading to FireHydrant's acquisition by Freshworks.

Jul 2021 – Now
Remote, USA

Stripe, Staff Software Engineer

I began on Stripe's API Platform team, leading a company-wide audit of their heavily-used feature flagging system to determine the purpose, ownership, and intended lifecycle of every single feature flag that had been created. This audit had immense and lasting impact on how Stripe engineers approached their use of feature flags, drastically reducing the number of flags being created for private, one-off features. After my time on API Platform, I moved to work on Stripe's Issuing product to act as engineering lead for the launch of a brand new Commercial Payout Card product, a five month project spanning almost ten separate workstreams and over a dozen other engineers.

Nov 2019 – May 2021
Remote, USA

HashiCorp, Senior Software Engineer

At HashiCorp, I worked on Terraform Cloud (TFC). Terraform is a free and open-source utility that allows engineers and teams to automate the process of provisioning infrastructure by defining that infrastructure as code. Terraform Cloud is essentially to Terraform as GitHub is to Git, adding remote state storage and collaborative features to Terraform. When I joined HashiCorp, I was on the team responsible for TFC's JSON API, its integration with Sentinel (an embeddable policy-as-code framework) and, occasionally, tinkering with its Ember frontend or surrounding Go microservices. At HashiCorp, I lead several large projects, including preparing version 2 of the API for exiting its beta status, a new administration API for Terraform Enterprise, Sentinel Policy Sets, and Cost Estimation feature.

Nov 2017 – Nov 2019
Remote, USA

GitHub , Software Engineer 	As a member of GitHub's Ecosystem Engineering organization, I shared responsibility for building and maintaining GitHub's developer APIs, third-party integrations, webhooks, and developer documentation. I was a member of the team that shipped the pre-release of GitHub's GraphQL API, after which I spent my time on the Identity Access Management (IAM) team shipping Business accounts and GitHub Apps. I also onboarded myself onto GitHub's main on-call rotation after only three months on the job. At my final performance review, I was told that my on-call logs were consistently amongst the best at the company.	Jan 2016 – Oct 2017 Remote, USA
IMMUNIO , Software Engineer		Apr 2015 – Dec 2015 Remote, USA
DigitalOcean , Software Engineer 		Aug 2014 – Mar 2015 Remote, USA
New Relic , Senior Software Engineer 		Oct 2012 – Aug 2014 Portland, OR, USA
DECK Monitoring , Software Engineer		May 2011 – Jul 2012 Portland, OR, USA

PROJECTS

block-kit , a powerful, elegant way to build UI for Slack applications	Apr 2025 – Now
Slack's Block Kit UI framework has many built-in limits, from text length to which blocks are supported in which surfaces, but they don't publish their JSON Schema. FireHydrant customers rely heavily on our Slack application so, to avoid errors from Slack, I created an elegant DSL powered by ActiveRecord with documented limits codified as Rails validations, most of which the gem can fix for users automatically.	
Nook Stop API , a GraphQL demo based on Animal Crossing 	Jun 2022 – Now
I delivered a tech talk to coworkers at FireHydrant about GraphQL and wrote an overly comprehensive API using data from Animal Crossing: New Horizons.	
Sparkles , an appreciation/recognition bot for Slack 	Oct 2021 – Now
Rack::Console , `rails console` for everything 	Jul 2014 – Now
Recommendable , a binary recommendation system 	Jan 2012 – Apr 2018
Crêpe , a lightweight API framework for Ruby 	Sep 2013 – Dec 2017
Sunscreen , a macOS app for dynamic wallpapers 	Feb 2016 – Mar 2016
goodbre.ws , a recommendation site for beer 	Jan 2011 – Mar 2014
A recommendation site for beer using likes/dislikes instead of a five-star system. It was unexpectedly featured on Lifehacker  and The Huffington Post  .	

EDUCATION

B.A.H. in Computer Science , Rollins College 	2007 – 2011 Winter Park, FL, USA
I graduated summa cum laude in the top 5 of my class with a 3.99 GPA (4.0 Major GPA) and was on the President's List for all terms.	