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September 29, 2024

Dear Portside Team,

While it may seem peculiar for someone with 20 years of experience to apply for the role of Full Stack Developer, I have a unique case. After 15 years living in the US, UK, and India, I've moved back to Canada and would like to work for a Canadian firm. I spent a significant amount of time volunteering on weekends to build open source for non-profits in Rails — and I would like to find a position as an individual contributor where I can maintain that skill during my day job.

From 2012 to 2018, I started and built Nilenso Software, India's first worker-owned technology company. I grew it to ₹15 Crore ARR, left to travel for two years, then from 2020 to 2024, worked on XTDB and Endatabas — two immutable, time-traveling database products. While building Nilenso, I mentored our small team in Ruby and Clojure. Our team built and maintained large data-oriented backend and ML systems for companies like Staples and Gojek. We built a local-first syncing engine for the life-saving app at Simple.org. As Nilenso's founder, I'm proud of the part I played in building the teams that built those systems. I enjoy building teams as much as I enjoy building tools.

Prior to starting Nilenso, I worked at ThoughtWorks and DRW from 2005 to 2011. I was a tech lead for teams as large as 30 and as small as 2, teaching folks design, architecture, and continuous integration (in the original sense). I left high finance and moved to India. It's a long story I'm happy to share.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,



Steven Deobald