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Dear Figment Team,

While it may seem peculiar for someone with 20 years of experience to apply for the role of Senior Engineer, 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've recently spent a significant amount of time volunteering 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.

I've been using Ruby since 1.8 and Rails since the pre-1.0 nightlies. I know them both very well.

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 distributed systems and data-oriented experimentation and ML systems for companies like Staples and Gojek. We built a local-first syncing engine for the life-saving app at Simple.org — one of the world's largest open source Rails codebases. 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 helped introduce both JRuby and Rails to the trade infrastructure team at DRW. We rewrote the entire trade capture and positions management system in JRuby, reducing code size by an order of magnitude and eliminating weekly failures the legacy C# system experienced. I lead the team that wrote and deployed the company's entire trading instrument reference data system in JRuby and Rails, wrapping the legacy SQL Server datastore while simultaneously supporting the new Oracle backend. 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