Sasha's Personal Readme

Hey there. My name is Sasha and my pronouns are they/them (or ey/em, if you are feeling spicy). I'm originally from Maine and lived a long while in Portland, Oregon, but in 2024 I moved to the 🇳🇱 Netherlands to run my own software consultancy here.

Previously I worked at Nava as an engineering lead on the Massachusetts PFML program, and I've done several contracts with Nava Labs - one on WIC with Montana, and one with the Oregon Food Bank on SNAP healthy incentives research.

⚡ What energizes me:

- Coffee (cold-brew, locally roasted) ☕
- Really excellent documentation 📝
- Diagrams. (I love to diagram everything) 🎉
- Too many emoji in emails and communications 🤭 📧 ✏️
- Seeing new opportunities to improve (myself, the project, everything)
- Tasty vegan snacks! 🥬 🍟

☠️ What makes me grumpy:

- Lack of sleep 😪
- Not having space in communications or meetings
- Having my input not taken seriously
- Having my facial expressions cause interruptions in meetings
- Confusing "being serious" with "no fun"
- Diagrams that don't fit on 1 page
- Being on camera and verbal all the time

📝 How I like to get feedback:

- Be direct; I endeavor to take feedback graciously
- Please don't tell me "we need to talk" unless you provide details "about ____"

🙀 I struggle with:

- Making eye-contact - during serious / intense conversation may mean I'm looking elsewhere
- Not solving every problem I encounter
- Needing encouragement to contribute to a discussion
- Neurodivergence (mine, not others)
- Belonging

🤝 The best way to help me:

- I will do almost anything if delegated authority in writing
- Make space for me - If it isn't a 1:1, I am probably leaving space for others
- Don't comment on my facial expressions
- Be comfortable with me contributing sometimes in chat / text rather than verbally in meetings
- Support me if I need to turn my camera off

📈 I'd love to help you with:

- Brainstorming architectural solutions (software, systems, you name it)
- Thinking about how features will evolve or should work as the requirements evolve
- Working on prototypes or initial designs

👾 Other things about me:

- Ik heb ongeveer 2 jaren Nederlandse les gehad (B1/B2 niveau)
- I don't like or want to maintain systems written in React ⚛️
- I love board games 🎲 and one of the first successes I had after moving was finding a local group