

Ross Kaffenberger

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SUMMARY Experienced, passionate web developer and team lead with expertise building, maintaining, and scaling dynamic web applications for startups in Ruby and JavaScript

EXPERIENCE *Head of Engineering* September 2011-Present
Devpost, New York, NY - Ruby on Rails, Ember.js

- Improved site performance continually through caching, key-value stores, and query optimizations to cut typical server response times from +1sec to sub-300ms
- Built key features including custom form builder app in Ember.js, profile customization widget using Paperclip and Backbone.js, onboarding wizard backed by Redis
- Maintained Chef recipes for automated server dependency management on AWS
- Contributed regularly to FOSS projects like devise, redis-objects, and ruby-trello
- Introduced best practices for code review, improved overall code quality, conducted weekly 1:1 reviews with emphasis on pragmatism and continuous improvement

Lead Frontend Developer March 2008-September 2011
WePlay, New York, NY - Ruby on Rails, Backbone.js

- As lead front-end developer, trained colleagues and introduced JavaScript and CSS best practices for development, testing, and deployment
- Built key features including media gallery and uploads, scheduling, event notifications, privacy controls, polling, social network integrations, and color schemes

Web Developer August 2007-March 2008
Cyrus Innovation, New York NY - Java, GWT, Ruby on Rails

- Built online classroom intervention tool in Java/GWT for Wireless Generation

Front-End Developer / Content Specialist August 2004-August 2007
The Grow Network, New York NY - JavaScript

- Created differentiated content and web for science instruction and built web-based features for dynamic educational products and test reports

Science Teacher August 1999-August 2004
Teach for America, YES College Prep, Houston TX

- Teacher of Year (2001); founded Lego Robotics Club, 2-time TX Botball champion

EDUCATION *Master's of Science, Computer Science* 2006-2011
New York University, New York, NY
Collaborated with CS and Linguistics departments to launch the language analysis tool TerraLing through independent study and built Sudokill, a heuristics game server

Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology 1995-1999
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Conducted stem-cell research and published findings in senior thesis

EXTRA-CURRICULAR Blogs about programming at rossta.net, top 10% on StackOverflow
Active in open source on GitHub and at local meetups, including NYC.rb
Creator of podcast site Running On Tilt, Amateur triathlete, IronMan finisher