Ross Kaffenberger

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SUMMARY

Motivated and scrappy web dev and team lead with expertise building, maintaining, and scaling dynamic web apps in Ruby and JavaScript

EXPERIENCE

Lead Software Engineer — Oct 2018-present

Stitch Fix, San Francisco, CA - Ruby on Rails, React, Webpack, Service-Oriented

- Led key initiatives on large-scale, service-oriented, e-commerce app, including planning and and execution of multi-stage service extraction with zero downtime
- Introduced high level domain models and internal APIs to address technical debt and improve our ability to expand referral incentive offering
- Optimized Webpack config and identify compilation bottlenecks across org

Principal Software Engineer — Mar 2017-Sep 2018

LearnZillion, Washington, DC - Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, Knockout.js, Webpack

- Migrated large JavaScript application from Rails asset pipeline to Webpack without disrupting development and while introducing ES6 conventions
- Established JavaScript best practices and strategy for adopting Vue.js
- Improved app resiliency and observability via monitoring and acceptance testing

Head of Engineering — Sep 2011-Mar 2016

Devpost, New York, NY - Ruby on Rails, Backbone.js, Ember.js, React.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 incl. custom form builder app and Redis-backed onboarding wizard
- 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 — Mar 2008-Sep 2011

WePlay, New York, NY - Ruby on Rails, jQuery, 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

EDUCATION

Master's of Science, Computer Science — Dec 2009

New York University, New York, NY

- Built a language analysis tool in collaboration with CS and Linguistics depts
- Created and hosted websocket-based multiplayer Sudoku game with Eventmachine

Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Active in open source on GitHub and gives talks at conferences and local meetups
Blogs about programming at rossta.net, top 5% on StackOverflow
Teach for America '99, former science and robotics teacher, Amateur triathlete