

Ross Kaffenberger

ross@rossta.net rossta.net github/rossta twitter/rossta

SUMMARY Experienced, motivated web dev and team lead with expertise building, maintaining, and scaling dynamic web apps in Ruby and JavaScript - excited about Elixir!

EXPERIENCE *Principal Software Engineer* March 2017-present
LearnZillion, Washington, DC - Ruby on Rails, Knockout.js, Webpack

- Migrated large JavaScript application from Rails asset pipeline to Webpack without disrupting development and while introducing ES6 conventions, i.e. modules
- Advocated for improvements to application and devops process, such as introducing acceptance tests and improvements in production monitoring

Head of Engineering September 2011-March 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 including custom form builder app in Ember.js and an onboarding wizard backed by Redis
- Maintained Chef recipes for automated server dependency management on AWS
- 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 (Consultancy), 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

EDUCATION *Master's of Science, Computer Science* 2006-2011
New York University, New York, NY
Built language analysis tool TerraLing in collab with CS and Linguistics depts

Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology 1995-1999
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 10% on StackOverflow
Former science teacher (Teach for America '99) and Robotics club mentor, Amateur triathlete, IronMan finisher