

Kai Xie

hello [at] itskai.me

github.com/hulloitskai

I'm a generalist software engineer, amateur systems designer, a creative and a tinkerer/hacker.
I like to build things that make people smile!

Experience

Playces [PLAYCES.IN](#)

Chief Technology Officer 2019-04 → 2022-10

- Designed and built a platform in Ruby on Rails and React to modernize independent tourism businesses, enabling them to display availability and receive bookings online, accept payments and send invoices (Stripe), automate manual processes (booking questions, automatic emails, built-in CRM, operations dashboard) and reach more customers (travel communities with social feed and media embeds).
- Gave our partners observability into under-utilized resources and the operational agility to really grow; one customer champion increased bookings by 250%, tripled the number of experiences offered, and increased revenue per booking by 40% after switching from AirBnB & Fare Harbor to Playces.
- Researched, designed, built, deployed, and iterated on our product and technology stack (Postgres, ElasticSearch, Kubernetes, HubSpot, Mailgun, Sentry, etc.) as the sole engineering/product person.

Universe [UNIVERSE.COM](#)

Software Developer Intern 2019-01 → 2019-04

- Write a CLI tool in Go for orchestrating on-demand staging environments for our microservices stack on Kubernetes, which powered our code review and QA flows. Investigated the operational limitations of the existing Rundeck-based systems and used these insights to design a spiritual successor.
- Researched and implemented optimizations to half the amount of time it took to launch a staging stack, reducing both wait times in our QA workflow, as well as our GCP bills.
- Supported product development by troubleshooting unexpected deployment failures
- Investigated security concerns and implemented solutions to mitigate them.

ConsenSys [CONSENSYS.NET](#)

Software Developer Intern 2018-04 → 2018-08

- Developed a team management webapp using React, MongoDB, and Neo4J to support the operation of decentralized organizations like ConsenSys.
- Worked with relationship-heavy data sets using graph databases, and architected a scalable data-heavy applications using Redux and websockets.

Skills

Front-End Web Development

HTML CSS JAVASCRIPT REACT GRAPHQL JSON MAPBOX SSR SEO PWA REALTIME, LIVE

Back-End Web Development

GOLANG NODEJS NEXTJS RUBY ON RAILS SQL, NOSQL, GRAPH DATABASES ETL CACHING PERFORMANCE
PARALLELLISM APIS, INTEGRATIONS WEBHOOKS TEXT & GEO SEARCH SECURITY, PERMISSIONS, XSS PREVENTION

DevOps, Infra

GOLANG KUBERNETES, CRDS, OPERATORS, GITOPS DOCKER CONTAINERIZATION CI & CD TERRAFORM AWS GCP
DIGITALOCEAN ELASTICSEARCH POSTGRES REDIS SITE RELIABILITY SECURITY & HARDENING

Mobile

REACT NATIVE EXPO FLUTTER SWIFT JAVA & KOTLIN XCODE ANDROID STUDIO

Design, UX, UI

FIGMA SKETCH DESIGN SYSTEMS ANIMATIONS HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN USER INTERVIEWING

Education

University of Waterloo

Bachelor of Computer Science*

2017-09 → 2019-04

Wilfrid Laurier University

Bachelor of Business Administration*

2017-09 → 2018-04

*I dropped out of school to build a startup halfway through my second year 🙌 (see experience: **Playces**)