JR Heard

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SUMMARY

I write simple, maintainable, computer programs, mainly websites. I make engineering organizations better by identifying problems, building consensus on the right solutions, and fixing them. Coworkers say that my "ability to break down a complex technical topic and want to share it with others, even non-technical folks, is a superpower." I love shipping bug-free features to customers.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Rust, Clojure, ClojureScript, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS
Tech: Postgres, Redis, DynamoDB, ElasticSearch, GraphQL, React, Git, AWS, Docker, Kubernetes

EDUCATION

Stanford University
B.S. Computer Science — 2006-2010

EXPERIENCE

Staff Software Engineer, Seesaw
2024-2025

- Built Custom Standards, loved by power users and high-value accounts
- Built Up-To-Date Standards, a system for keeping Seesaw's library of educational standards up to date - trickier than it sounds!
- Introduced Pyright, adding type coverage to Seesaw's large and complex Python codebase. Developers rated Seesaw's codebase a 3/10 at the start of my time there, and that number had risen to 8/10 by the time I left, in large part due to the safety and fast feedback that Pyright bought us.

Senior Software Engineer, Ride Report
2019-2022

- Implemented Ride Report's flagship Policy feature, which allowed cities to clearly communicate their regulations to scooter operators
- Implemented Ride Report's system for assessing fees and issuing invoices, allowing customer cities to track millions of dollars of revenue
- Introduced Mypy, making the codebase much more maintainable and preventing entire categories of bugs - coworkers said they'd never want to write Python without Mypy again

Tech Lead, Yelp
2009 - 2016

- Built a performant activity feed system using Cassandra
- Built Yelp's Hot New Businesses feature, which automatically detects recently-opened businesses around the world
- Built Yelp's Your Next Review Awaits feature using ElasticSearch
- Built Request Bucketer, a system for rolling out new features and conducting experiments

SIDE PROJECTS

Volunteer, Madison High School
2017 - 2019
I consulted for several tech classes, primarily an introductory Python class where I shaped the curriculum and created engaging projects. Examples: **Watercolorbot**, **Blackjack**, **Tic-Tac-Toe**

Quinto (blog post, source code)

Implementation of a '60s board game a friend found at Goodwill, written in ClojureScript.