

- What is your current situation?
 - I finished my last engagement in early October 2024. I was laid off from my previous role at Side. It was a large layoff that affected about 50% of the engineering department. I am actively searching for a new role and have been participating in a lot of interviews. If you're reading this I am still on the market and would like to chat! Please feel free to schedule any time that works for you on my calendar: <https://calendar.app.google/SnBiM9Rnp7vQxeHLA>
- What are you looking for in your next role?
 - I am seeking a backend or full-stack engineer role at a company with a great engineering culture and an exciting, well-received product. I want to continue building my skill set and work alongside talented engineers, ideally in a smaller, fast-paced environment with leadership opportunities. I am particularly interested in companies leveraging AI and ML, as I believe those technologies will be essential for success in the future. I have been using AI tools in my personal projects and see the value of these tools.
- What is your preferred work arrangement?
 - My preference is for a remote role, but I am open to hybrid work arrangements if scheduling is flexible. I live in Round Rock, Texas, about 30 miles north of Austin.
- What are your salary expectations?
 - I am targeting a base salary starting at \$200,000. For contract roles, I am open to discussing specific hourly rates and would be more attracted to roles paying \$100/hour or more.
- What are your long-term career goals?
 - In the next five years, I would like to transition into an engineering management role. I want to gain more experience and knowledge before stepping into a leadership position.
- Can you describe your experience as a tech lead?
 - I have acted as a tech lead in various roles throughout my career, leading teams of varying sizes. I have a proven track record of designing, developing, and delivering high-performing applications while collaborating closely with business and technology stakeholders. I am comfortable making architectural decisions, breaking down complex tasks, and mentoring junior engineers.
- What is your experience working on both new and existing codebases?
 - In my recent role at Side, approximately 90% of my work involved developing new code, APIs, and data models. I have experience working on both greenfield projects and migrating legacy systems. I am comfortable working in both situations and understand the challenges and opportunities each presents.

- What is your experience with contract work?
 - I have worked on contract teams in the past, both as part of a fully contracted team on the client side and as an individual contractor. I am open to considering contract roles if the compensation is attractive and the project aligns with my interests. I would prefer to work through my own contracting company if possible.
- Can you talk about your experience with specific technologies?
 - My primary expertise lies in the TypeScript, React, and Node.js ecosystem. I am also proficient in Python. I am eager to learn and adapt to new technologies like Golang and Gen AI. I have deployed applications to GCP and AWS, written Terraform scripts, and have experience with cloud infrastructure. However, I have not performed a dedicated DevOps role. I have some experience with C#, but it has been a while since I have used it in production. I am open to working with C#, Python, Go, or Gen AI if the company is ok with me ramping up and the project is interesting.
- What is your approach to problem-solving and technical challenges?
 - I take a first-principles approach to problem-solving, breaking down complex challenges into smaller components and questioning assumptions. I believe in iterating on solutions based on feedback and strive to deliver the best possible product for the end user. I am a strong communicator and enjoy collaborating with cross-functional teams.
- What is a challenging technical problem you recently faced? What was your role and how did you solve it?
 - In my most recent role, I was tasked with a large data migration that had to juggle keeping the existing user-facing application up and fully functional, keeping multiple data sources in sync, and supporting net-new features based on the new data model. This was complicated further by the event-based architecture of payment systems. In preparation, I meticulously combed through the code and disparate systems to determine the correct data source to read and/or write to/from. I created a technical design document and communicated it to the cross-functional stakeholders, my director of engineering, the company software architect, and the rest of my team. From there I worked with product and engineering management to break down tasks and allocate responsibilities to other team members. I migrated the data with verification from upstream and downstream teams. I also coordinated across multiple systems to respect the unified state of the migration steps. This involved feature flagging, dual reading data with a compare, dual writing data, and syncing legacy data sources after verification was complete. I set up alerts and monitors to verify the compare steps along the way, correcting any issues found. Ultimately I led the team to a successful migration with zero production outages. This experience was invaluable to me as it showed me the complications, common pitfalls, trade-offs

and workarounds needed for keeping two data sources in sync in a distributed system, all while supporting legacy and new features.

- **AI and the Future of Work:** What's most exciting to you about AI and the opportunity to improve the future of work?
 - It's an exciting time in AI. New models, tools, and techniques are released daily, and it has never been easier to integrate Gen AI into product features. I want to work at a company that embraces these emerging technologies and where I will gain experience working with Gen AI tools and techniques. AI is an invaluable tool for unlocking incredible velocity and productivity gains, needless to say, the "Future of Work" looks bright!
- Have you worked on features without strong design guidelines before, where you had to pay attention to design/ user experience and you felt like your contribution made the product or feature better? If so, what happened, and what did you build?
 - While working at big brands like Blue Apron and VRBO/Expedia, I worked on myriad features while adhering to strong design guidelines. Not only did I build high-traffic features such as the landing/marketing pages and delivery schedule features for consumers, but I also focused on adherence to design guidelines for the rest of the team. I was responsible for creating shared component libraries, implementing design systems, and presenting to working groups involved in setting the guidance for strong design guidelines.
- What are your interests outside of work?
 - I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, and traveling. I am passionate about technology and always learning new things. I am currently working on a personal project called Saveur, a SaaS tool that automates backups for social media accounts. I am also building a generative AI and automation consultancy.