Stephan Fitzpatrick

Software Engineer

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18 College Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94112
831.383.9328
knowsuchagency@gmail.com

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As a six-year veteran of the United States Navy, I'm wired in such a way that when given a mission, I'm going to find a way to accomplish it. That being said, I've learned how much more rewarding and fluid it is to get things done when the people believe in their mission and feel personally invested in its success.I was one of the co-founders of PyHawaii, Hawaii's Python User Group and in that role, I worked with local community leaders to plan networking events and personally presented several talks on software development. I have a technical blog, http://journalpanic.com, and I'm active on GitHub and Reddit, where my username is knowsuchagency, as it is on most platforms.

I didn't learn Python, SQL, git, or any other technology in a formal school setting. I learned them while working at the NSA as an enlisted service-member in the US Navy on my own volition. While working at the Agency as an intelligence analyst, I spent a great amount of time outside of work teaching myself how to code. Within a few months, I used the skills I learned at home to automate the vast majority of my tasking (and that of everyone else who had the same job) at work - an accomplishment for which I was officially awarded by the Agency and assigned to write software full-time alongside experienced NSA civilian software engineers.

Despite my technical achievements at the Agency, my greatest and most lasting accomplishment may have been the connections I helped to foster between previously disparate teams. Bridging the relationship between military intelligence analysts and the NSA civilian software engineers who served them required me to become adept at navigating academic, cultural, and hierarchical barriers. My contributions proved to be so valuable that military and NSA leadership chose to create an entirely new position for military service-members to do the same type of work that I did - going so far as to create a training pipeline specifically for that role.

I strongly believe my technical knowledge, social skills, and professional experience could greatly contribute to Dropbox and its mission. Thanks for the time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Stephan Fitzpatrick