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Citizenship: Swiss



Summary

I studied Computer Science at ETH Zürich (BSc and MSc) and have been working with code and people for over a decade. I enjoy getting hands-on with the product, crafting code, and finding solutions that are as simple as possible (but no simpler). Yet what is the product without the team building and iterating on it? Nothing but dead code. I can provide leadership and mentorship, fostering an environment where the team feels safe to grow and experiment in.

Employment

Since 2023: CTO [Spatz](#) (formerly Polaris News), Zürich, Switzerland

Startup building a user-generated hyper-local news platform.

Hired part of the team. We followed the lean startup methodology, rapid prototyping, user-centered design, business model generation, etc. Implemented MVP using Astro, SolidJS, Supabase and Render.

2019-2023: Technical team lead front-end at [Tamedia](#), Zürich, Switzerland

Tamedia is one of the largest media groups in Switzerland. As the technical team lead for the web front-ends and native apps, my team of 11 developers was responsible for the platform delivering 13 websites, including www.tagesanzeiger.ch. Our frontend service handles a sustained load of 150'000 requests/min, with peaks exceeding 500'000. We have a modern CI/CD workflow with feature-branch-deployments, and auto-deployment to production as soon as a feature is merged.

I helped grow the skill-sets of my team members, and by building trust, significantly improved communication and processes between various teams and stakeholders. One of the first things I did was to move our team and our Next.js codebase from JavaScript to TypeScript. One of the last things was to move the development of our native apps in-house; hired one iOS and one Android dev, re-architected the apps as hybrid apps (Swift/Kotlin plus WebViews) and as promised, launched within a year.

2018-2019: Software engineer at *Fision Technologies* (since acquired by Zalando), Zürich

Fision Technologies is a startup with at that time around 20 employees. The product is a mobile app and accompanying back-end. End-users use the app to take photos of their body, from which a 3D-model is constructed, which is used to give size-recommendations for clothes when online-shopping on one of our customers' online stores.

I was working on both the front-end (React, TypeScript, GraphQL) and the back-end services. The latter were implemented using Python (Falcon and SQLAlchemy), exposed as REST APIs and ran on Google's Kubernetes Engine.

2015-2018: Co-founder and full-stack developer of *2324.ch*, Zürich

My co-founder (a graphic designer) and I won an Impact Hub Zürich Fellowship with the idea of 2324.ch – a participatory hyper-local online news-platform. We quickly on-boarded a marketing/sales guy and soon acquired four paying municipalities. Unfortunately, that was not enough to sustain our growth vision, so we decided to hand-over the project and our customers to Crossiety, a startup sharing our vision of an online village square.

In addition to forming our team and product strategy, I implemented both front- and back-end of the online platform. My decision to go with a simple and proven stack (Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL and some React) served us well, and allowed us to quickly iterate on the product.

2017-2018: Haskell developer for *qua-kit*, Chair of Information Architecture, ETH Zürich

In my part-time work, I supported Artem Chirkin, then a PhD student, in continuing the development of qua-kit, a web-based platform that assists urban designers in their design process.

I worked on both the front- and back-end, which were implemented using *Reflex* (a functional reactive programming framework on GHCJS) and *Yesod* respectively.

Previous jobs

2015: Software engineer at *mp technology*, Zürich

2014: Internship at *Silk*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2011-2014: Webmaster of the Departement of Computer Science at ETH Zürich

2012: Summer internship at *28msec*, Palo Alto, California, USA

Education

2013-2014: Master of Computer Science at ETH Zürich

2008-2013: Bachelor of Computer Science at ETH Zürich

2005-2006: Exchange year in Norway (high school in Kristiansund)

2003–2008: High school: Kantonsschule Romanshorn, Switzerland

1995–2003: Basic education in Horn, Switzerland

Select Projects

2014-2021: [regular contributor](#) to [pandoc](#), a universal document converter – Haskell

2019: [PanWriter](#), a Markdown editor with pandoc integration – PureScript, JS, Electron

2018: LED matrix display for Impact Hub Zürich – Python on Raspberry Pi

2014: [Master thesis](#): a GUI tool to map any JSON-based Web API, plus a Node.js-based server to access it as if it were a HAL Hypermedia API

Experience

Programming languages:

extensive experience: TypeScript/JavaScript (React, Solid, Astro, Next.js, Express.js, kysely), Haskell, Ruby (Rails and Jekyll), Python, HTML/CSS, SQL

some experience: Rust, Java, PHP, C/C++

Technologies used in production:

Databases and services: PostgreSQL, MongoDB Atlas, AWS (S3, CloudFront, Beanstalk, EC2), [Datadog cloud monitoring](#), GitHub, GitLab, CircleCI, Netlify

[OpenAPI](#) ([tsoa API](#) and [client generation](#)), Storybook, JWTs, HTTP streaming (for both HTML and JSON/SSE), unit- and integration tests

Open source: github.com/mb21 and active on stackoverflow.com/users/214446 (>39k rep)

Writing: mb21.github.io/blog, articles for the [Free Software Magazine](#)

Talks: [Pandoc at HaskellerZ](#)

Languages

German: native language

English: Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English Grade A

Norwegian, Swedish: fluent

June 4, 2025

<https://mb21.github.io/cv/cv.pdf>