MIKE DESJARDINS

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Managed team that decomposed monolithic Python backend into smaller microservices, reducing build times and improving system stability. Halved the response time for high-volume pricing requests.
- Managed mobile teams through MVVM rearchitecture, lead design meetings and set up CI/CD pipelines and processes.
- Lead team (and contributed code) that rebuilt all payment processing functionality for the company, integrating with six different payment processors, saving the company millions of dollars per month and enhancing our cash reserves. Newly designed system processed over \$500M/month.
- Second hire at automotive repair two-sided marketplace (Openbay). Built out systems to notify users of
 offers, CRM system for backoffice, and numerous other features in Ruby on Rails. System scaled
 adequately to handle high traffic after being featured on NBC Nightly News and Fox Morning News.

SKILLS

- Python (5 years)
- Ruby (10 years)
- Javascript (10 years)
- Java (5 years)
- Light experience with Elixir, Kotlin, Swift
- Flask, Celery
- SQLAlchemy
- Ruby on Rails, Sidekiq
- Phoenix
- PostgreSQL
- Light experience with React Native and Flutter
- Agile Project Management
- REST, gRPC, OpenAPI
- Recruited and hired 20+ engineers
- Startups, Scale-ups
- CI/CD

SELECT EXPERIENCE

Full Stack Engineer, Director of Engineering | Zepz

2018-Present

- Joined as a Software Engineer at what was a small startup, of less than 30 people (Sendwave, YC'12) that was acquired in 2021 by WorldRemit/Zepz Group for \$500M
- Started with user-facing development as one of six engineers. Worked on both the backend codebase (Python, Flask, Celery, Postgres, GCP) and mobile (Kotlin, Swift) codebases to add features such as biometric login, internationalization, server-driven form configuration, as well as many third-party integrations with payment processors and analytics platforms
- Helped scale the backend from processing US\$500M transactions per year to US\$8B annually.
- Assisted with migration from Heroku to GCP Kubernetes-based deployment
- Lead effort with five newly hired engineers to do a complete overhaul of the mobile user interface. Over time, the team adapted the codebase to use the MVVM design pattern
- Leadership roles culminated in a directorship of the platform team, where I grew the team from zero to 20 engineers and implemented a scrum-based SDLC. Oversaw the separation of our monolithic backend into smaller services. Mentored a first time manager on team leadership skills
- Currently working in the combined Zepz organization, leading teams who are rewriting legacy systems into Springboot-based Kotlin microservices running on AWS, as well as several mobile engineers

Full Stack Developer | MeetEdgar

2017-2018

- Implemented new features on Rails-based back end and React/Redux ES6 based front end, including support for Instagram, and a new referral program
- In addition to React and Redux, the front end made heavy use of CSS modules, webpack, and jest-based unit tests

- Primary areas of focus were user onboarding, payment processing, and adding multi-media features (e.g., video and multi-image posts via Twitter and Facebook's API)

Front-end Developer (Contract) | Time-Warner Cable

2016-2017

- Augmented staff of Time Warner Cable through contracting agency Sigient (now defunct)
- Rebuilt portions of front-end of customer portal for major U.S. cable company
- Changed out Backbone-based components in favor of React
- Updated build process to use Webpack and Babel to support ES6 and JSX. Worked with external auditing agency to update customer portal to be fully accessible to disabled users

Founding Engineer, Engineering Director | Openbay

2013-2016

- Fourth hire at a Cambridge-based startup building an online marketplace matching auto repair shops with vehicle owners needing service
- Built out greenfield project to production, including being featured on NBC Nightly News
- Used Ruby on Rails and Elixir/Phoenix based backends. Contributions included creation of a user-facing "dashboard" for open service requests, a CRM backend for use by the sales and business development teams, and a PostGIS-based system for requesting service bids from repair shops
- Eventually helped hire new five person team and implemented scrum-based SDLC process

CTO, Team Lead, Full Stack Engineer | Burnside Digital

2011-2013

- Developed Ruby on Rails and Android applications most notable contributions were to the CityEats and MaaSive projects. CityEats was a restaurant reservation system created by Scripps Networks (similar to OpenTable, but for higher-end restaurants with celebrity chefs). MaaSive was a mobile-as-a-service product similar to Parse
- Lead project to create Cloudshine, a standalone App Performance Monitor
- Lead effort to modernize Flavorpill, a Rails and Mongo based event planning site similar to Eventbrite
- As CTO I led the software development team which included: determining strategic focus for new technology and methodologies, working with sales team to onboard and form relationships with new clients, and leading internal projects and initiatives to expand Burnside Digital's offerings from solely service-based to product-based

Ruby-on-Rails Contractor | Sony Music

2008-2011

- Helped a four-person team develop and support Ariama, a (now defunct) online store for purchasing classical music in a lossless FLAC format
- The site featured a unique taxonomy for classical music, organizing tracks by work and performer instead of the conventional Track/Album/Artist format. Main areas of focus were the search/indexing system and online checkout system.

EDUCATION

Electrical and Computer Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Minor in Computer Science.

ACTIVITIES

- Former mentor/coach of FIRST Robotics Team 5687 (The Outliers). Taught high school students control systems programming.
- Former mentor in the Railsgirls program, whose goal is to bring more representation from non-males into the software development industry.