

Mel Seto

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Versatile and results-driven Software Engineer with 8 years of experience, including 4 years architecting and scaling backend systems in Python. Proven track record delivering robust APIs, performant microservices, and collaborating across product teams. Inspired to engage in meaningful work after an education sabbatical.

EXPERIENCE

Recurse Center

August 2025 - Present

Participant

- Engaged in a self-directed 12-week programming retreat, with a focus on leveraging AI in web apps
- Built “Chinese Idiom Finder”, a semantic search app using Cerebras.ai, hosted on HuggingFace Spaces, which helps users find an accurate Chinese idiom to say in a given situation
- Collaborated with peers through pair programming, code review, and technical discussions

Lex Machina, part of LexisNexis, RELX Inc.

July 2020 – September 2024

Software Engineer

Remote

- Lex Machina provides Legal Analytics to companies and law firms, enabling them to craft successful litigation ([lexmachina.com](https://www.lexmachina.com))
- Designed and developed an external API, Lex Machina’s second ever product offering, using FastAPI on Google Cloud Run to deliver legal analytics data to AmLaw 100 firms and Fortune 500 companies
- Built user-friendly frontend UI for API credential management with React, Pyramid, SQLAlchemy, and PostgreSQL, collaborating with domain experts and product managers to integrate new court data, resulting in improved data access and user engagement
- Developed and managed operation of Python scripts to automate web crawling of massive public datasets (gigabytes) from state courts, significantly enhancing data freshness and volume
- Devised and implemented command-line scripts to automate company reports, including monthly billing reports, reducing a multi-hour manual processes to minutes

JRI America

July 2016 – July 2020

Software Developer

New York, NY

- JRI-America provides IT services for SMBC Group and its entities ([jri-america.com](https://www.jri-america.com))
- Developed full-stack internal finance web applications as part of an Agile team, utilizing Java, C#, React, and SQL, delivering features such as search forms, reports, and PDF creation that streamlined finance operations
- Led cross-functional communication between remote teams in Japan, Ireland, and England, aligning business, engineering, and QA teams to ensure seamless collaboration and timely project delivery across multiple time zones

SKILLS

- Python, Git, SQL, HTML, React, Test Driven Development, Google Cloud
- Leadership, Communication, Problem-solving, Critical Thinking

EDUCATION

International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University

Sept 2024 - June 2025

Certificate

Taipei, Taiwan

- Took an intentional pause from a 8-year fulfilling career to study at a full-time, immersive Mandarin Chinese language program at one of Asia’s top language institutes
- Strengthened cultural fluency, self-directed learning, and cross-cultural communication

Columbia University

Graduated May 2016

BA, Environmental Science (Phi Beta Kappa, Dean’s List)

New York, NY