

# Alain M. Lafon

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## Business Experience

2014–present

**CTO, Member of the Board, Voice Republic Media AG, Zürich.**

Voice Republic is a platform for decentralized debates, podcasters and conferences.

<http://voicerepublic.com>

- Voice Republic is a startup financed through outside capital and currently valued at 5m CHF (as of 05/2015).
- We are situated in Zurich (where most development happens) and Berlin (where most operations and sales happen).
- As CTO and member of the board of a young startup, a comprehensive list of my role would go beyond the scope of a CV, therefore I'm only giving fairly rough quotes:
  - Lean development management
  - Scrum Master
  - Developing the platform through use of Ruby (on Rails), AngularJS, HTML5, Sass, CoffeeScript, Javascript and RTMP
  - Building services in NodeJS and Clojure
  - Architecture for software and infrastructure
  - Team building
  - Online Marketing & Traction generation

2014–present

**CEO, 200ok GmbH, Zürich.**

Competence in emerging technologies.

<http://200ok.ch>

- 200ok is an incubator.
- We are experimenting with a wide variety of technologies and business opportunities.
- For example we are working on:
  - A service to solve fundamental mathematical problems
  - Service configuration
- We are also working with students from ZHAW by providing them topics for their Bachelor theses.

2011–2014 **Software Engineer**, *Panter AG*, Zürich.

Cutting edge web development.

<http://panter.ch>

- Sales, Project Lead and Development Lead for a Metadata GIS platform for Kanton Sankt Gallen. Built using several APIs, jRuby on Rails 3.2, HTML5.
- Worked on a team creating a new social platform for music enthusiasts in Rails 3.1, jQuery, HTML5, CSS3. Been involved in most parts of the application and was the tech contact for the customer.  
<http://bandplanet.com>
- Built a study management tool for Straumann AG. Scientific studies are hard to track - from proposals to management of products, prototypes, documents, responsibilities and todos everything is done in this application. Completing a study can take up to five years and includes many users, tasks and generic workflows. Utilizing jRuby, Rails 3.1, Jetty, Twitter Bootstrap, jQuery, CSS3.
- Built a multi tenant sports club management system with user role, schedule, appointment and club membership management for ActiveCare AG in Rails 3.0, jQuery, CSS3, Grid960.
- Built a product finder to be embedded in a larger business application for Phonak AG. It matches compatibility of mobile phones to Phonak products - utilizing CSV imports, Ajax, Rails 3.0, jQuery and CSS3.
- Customized an existing Panter Rails application for Phonak AG which is used to streamline the internal marketing. Modification was done on the complex reporting system which does Excel 2011 exports.
- Built an internal controlling application in Rails 3.0, jQuery and Grid960. It is used for all internal projects to keep track of their respective state and profitability as well as being a support for planning resources.
- Built a customized website for the band Pianobeat using RefineryCMS, Rails 3.0, jQuery and CSS3.  
<http://pianobeat.ch>
- Built a customized website for a car shop using RefineryCMS, Rails 3.0, jQuery and CSS3.
- Internal consulting on technology stack for webbased iPad application for Starticket. Went with BackboneJS, UnderscoreJS, jQuery and CSS3. Demo was done in jQuery Mobile.
- Worked on creating a new i18n translation engine for Rails 3.x applications.
- Integrated new features into multiple established applications with custom Panter CMS POL.
- Internal consulting on multiple applications and technology decisions.
- Helped bringing in new software engineers into the team. Taught utilizing different technology stacks, evaluated skills and worked close in pair programming sessions.
- Written offers and estimated efforts for front- and backend applications.
- Upgraded several legacy Rails 2.3 applications.
- Involved in internal hosting using Puppet, OpenVZ, Debian and Dreamhost.

2008–2011 **Software Engineer**, *Document Solutions AG*, Zürich.

Breaking through the analog-digital barrier.

- Designed and built OCR for recognizing metadata of half a million invoices per year.
- Helped design and build custom invoice workflows for five big corporations and two cantons.
- Designed and built the new product "Gerichtsurkunden" for Swiss Post. It processes every document sent by courts in Switzerland. Also did technical lead.
- Designed and built web application for statistical data analysis of 100'000 invoices per year.
- Created a data transfer client for Allianz to transfer eight kilometers of scanned documents.
- Technical project lead
  - Designed and implemented regression and system test automation. Also trained staff to use them.
  - Optimized project management structures.
    - Evaluated and customized project management software (Trac).
    - Organized and held internal training seminars (TDD, SOA, VIM).
  - Responsible for Kofax (Capture, Transformation Module) and Opentext DokuStar.

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## Teaching experience

- 2011–present **Lecturer**, *Zürcher Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften*, Zürich.  
<http://zhaw.ch>
- Lecture 'Introduction to programming in C'
  - Lecture 'Web programming I-III'
  - Advisor for Term Papers
  - Advisor for Bachelor Theses
  - Helped create a new course of studies "Informatik BSc" while migrating from HSZ-T to ZHAW
- 2007–2008 **Campus Ambassador**, *Sun Microsystems GmbH*, Stuttgart.  
Bringing Sun Open Source technologies (Java, Opensolaris, Netbeans, OpenSPARC) to universities.
- Prepared and performed tech demos at Stuttgarts' universities.
    - Java SE6, Java EE5, Java FX
    - Solaris 10, Opensolaris, in particular ZFS and Zones
  - Supported Sun events (i.e. Sun tech days).
  - Marketed Sun OSS tech to decision makers at universities.

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## Good cause

- 2015–present **Tutor**, *Insopor Zen Academy*, Herrliberg.  
The dog chases the mudball, the tiger bites the thrower!  
<http://insopor.com>
- Where are we? Who are we? We have no place to lay our heads on, like drifting clouds and flowing waters.
  - Our purpose is to awaken everyones true nature and offer a refuge for meditation and a place to re-examine the wisdom words of the Holy and Wise Ones.
  - At the Academy we are separating religion and state by emphasising True Zen practice without the means of cryptic words or foreign culture.
  - As a means I opened the Sinopa Zen House that offers morning and evening meditation periods during the week as well as mini retreats and week long retreats together with the other Zen Houses of the Academy.
- 2013–2015 **Dojo attendant**, *Shogen Dojo*, Zürcher.  
Rinzai Zen Society of Switzerland e.V.  
<http://shogen-doj.org>
- The Shogen Dojo opens for daily meditation periods, day retreats and longer retreats.
  - As attendant I lived there for 1.5 years and was responsible for operations, daily meditation, instructions and leading of retreats.

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## Computer skills

Unix	Daily use of Linux, OS X, (Solaris)	VIM	Unpaid evangelist
Writing	German, US, GB layouts with 450 characters per minute	Database	MySQL, PostgreSQL, Sqlite, MSSQL, NoSQL (Memcached, CouchDB, Redis)

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## Languages

Ruby (on Rails)	<b>Good</b> , <i>professional use</i> .
JS/Coffee	<b>Good</b> , <i>professional use</i> .
Clojure	<b>Good</b> , <i>LISP of choice</i> .
ClojureScript	<b>Good</b> , <i>professional use</i> .
HTML5/CSS	<b>Good</b> , <i>professional use</i> .

Shell **Good**, *daily use of Linux/OSX, writing scripts as needed.*  
 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X **Good**, *used when appropriate.*  
 Python **Dated**, *daily professional and personal use 2008/09.*  
 C **Dated**, *started programming with it 12 years ago, teaching 2011/12.*  
 German **Native tongue.**  
 English **Fluent**, *needed on a daily basis in different media.*  
 French **Basic knowledge**, *five years in school.*

## Interests

Startups	Involved in several Startups	Open Source	Free Software Foundation member, <a href="http://github.com/munen">http://github.com/munen</a>
GTD	Getting things done	Reading	Classics, novels, tech (news)
Zen	Buddhist, Daily meditation and practice	Kaizen	Continuous improvement
Sports	Running, Cycling, Budo	NVC	Non Violent Communication by M. Rosenberg

## Bachelor thesis

title *Lieferscheine für Gerichtsurkunden*  
 ISBN 978-3639282436  
 Grade 1.0