michael.zemel@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/michael-zemel (LinkedIn)
github.com/mzemel (Portfolio)

Top Skills

Systems Design

Mentoring

Go (Programming Language)

Michael Zemel

Principal Engineer at Stitch Fix
West Simsbury, Connecticut, United States

Summary

People first.

I turn ambiguous problems into simple solutions.

My interests and skills:

• System architecture (scalable, highly available)
• Domain and KPI definition
• Roadmap & KR development
• Creative problem-solving in complex spaces
• Project design, alignment, and execution
• Leading multiple teams
• Mentoring project leads
• Building morale and knowledge-sharing

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Experience

Stitch Fix
5 years 1 month

Principal Engineer
September 2022 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Architect and provide technical leadership for the inventory and warehouse domains. I work across multiple teams and projects, helping leads decompose work, level up, and produce effective and maintainable software.

I do a lot of system design, diagramming, long-range planning, and helping ideate and drive impactful projects that increase revenue and reduce expenses. I provide a thoughtful and empathetic approach to a crucial role that sits between engineering, upper management, product owners, and various cross-functional stakeholders.

The projects I architect span years of development time, and include major integrations with SaaS products, general purpose libraries, new and

deprecating microservices, large database migrations, and other high-visibility initiatives. Ultimately, I hold myself responsible for the success of the teams in my domain.

Lead Engineer
February 2019 - September 2022 (3 years 8 months)

Lead teams of 4-6 engineers, taking business initiatives from KR ideation through the design and planning, and through execution and delivery. Emphasis on mentoring, collaboration, and clear communication with stakeholders (management, product, finance, IT, compliance, customer support, etc.)

Projects I've led have spanned multiple quarters and fiscal years, and launched new services, deprecated existing ones, and created foundational work for new problem spaces (customer privacy, subscriptions & scheduling, inventory management, payment platforms, etc.)

COFENSE
2 years 7 months

Tech Lead
November 2017 - January 2019 (1 year 3 months)
Remote

* Lead a team of engineers to deliver high-quality software, giving our company a competitive advantage.
* Consult across departments on strategic initiatives and turning the product roadmap into units of work
* Manage team progress, using data to drive productivity and process changes in an Agile environment

Software Engineer IV
July 2016 - November 2017 (1 year 5 months)
Remote

• Led the design and development of Ruby on Rails web applications in an agile, cross-functional development environment, delivering features that gave our company a competitive advantage.
• Collaborated with product owners, engineers, QA, and management to establish requirements and strategy
• Mentored fellow engineers, gave talks, and led workshops on coding / professional development.
• Contributed to engineering-wide architectural roadmap during our move to a micro-service architecture

SweetSpot Diabetes Care, Inc.
Software Engineer
August 2014 - November 2015 (1 year 4 months)

• Developed for and supported a multi-million dollar healthcare product in a fast-paced environment.
• Independently designed and developed microservice applications and gems in Ruby and Elixir
• Worked with ProdEng/DevOps on Chef, CI, and CD
• Collaborated with QA, Product, and Sales on various engineering and compliance initiatives

Househappy
Software Engineer
June 2013 - August 2014 (1 year 3 months)
Portland, Oregon

• Developed scraper to seed database using Selenium integrating with Rails models
• Provisioned server, app, and efficient parser to fetch large external data sets daily
• Authored gem to algorithmically score images and present best ones to users
• Wrote much of the API required for our iPhone app

Self
Freelance Web Developer
April 2013 - June 2013 (3 months)
Portland, OR

• Learned Backbone and CoffeeScript to provide rich SPA on top of Rails API
• Added API features and implemented design mockups in HTML/CSS/JS

KPSU
Web Director
September 2012 - June 2013 (10 months)
Portland, OR

• Solely developed features on legacy Rails 3 application in Ruby and Javascript
• Responsible for maintenance, deploys, testing, and infrastructure
• Opensourced project, added bugtracking software, worked with customers

Portland State University
2 years 9 months

Graduate Student
September 2010 - May 2013 (2 years 9 months)
Portland, Oregon

Teaching Assistant
September 2010 - May 2013 (2 years 9 months)
Portland, OR

I've TA'd Anatomy & Physiology for two years and Principles of Biology for one year.

Clark University
Teaching Assistant
January 2008 - May 2010 (2 years 5 months)
Worcester, Massachusetts

Undergrad teaching experience (Biology of the Brain)

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Education

Clark University
Bachelor's degree, Pre-Medicine/Pre-Medical Studies · (2006 - 2010)

Portland Community College
Coursework, Computer Science · (2019)

Southern Connecticut State University
Coursework, Computer Science · (2018)

Portland State University
Graduate School, Neuroscience · (2010)