NICK FICANO

LEAD ENGINEER • TOP 15 PYTHON GITHUB DEVELOPER

jotonce.com • github.com/nficano • nficano@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/nficano • New York, NY

A kind and candid lead engineer with experience building, developing and leading motivated teams of developers while consistently developing creative solutions for identified business problems. Passionate about creating efficiencies and instilling a culture of humor and collaboration. Trusted as the first engineer/employee hire at two companies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Engineer *(1st overall hire; integral part of building team of 17 engineers)*   Jan. 2016 - Present
Simple Health | *Greater New York City Area*

Responsible for architecting and implementing the company's **backend infrastructure**, setting up first servers and databases, performing all data modeling, and planning management and storage of users, order, and product data. **Lead the full software development lifecycle**, and managed a team of developers responsible for the web administration system.

Key Achievements:

- Act as **product owner** for a task system that enabled customer service representatives to process orders correctly and efficiently, responsible for managing product strategy and developing the technical roadmap.
- Developed web administration system, enabling product inventory management, order receipt, and tracking, and real-time messaging for customer support to communicate with customers via email and SMS.
- Collaborate closely with customer support, marketing, and product teams to **identify requirements**, inefficiencies, and preferred features to develop solutions.
- Bootstrapped **provisionally patented** vision engine that performs real-time facial distance detection using a mobile phone or web camera, allowing users to take eye tests remotely without the presence of a physician..
- Developed image processing pipeline to analyze incoming images and PDFs, apply various transforms such as perspective and orientation correction, and then re-encode it back to our cloud storage service.
- Built Slackbot that significantly **streamlined operations** and improved network security, including permitting user-friendly firewall rule management and providing secure access to production snapshot for local development.
- Performed data extraction and **statistical** analysis to optimize customer retention.

Founder / Lead Engineer   June 2010 - Present
JotOnce | *Greater New York City Area*

Independently developed and designed a successful web app for quickly creating password-protected and shareable notes, garnering two acquisition offers in the past 12 months and features in [LifeHacker](#) and [GigaOM](#). Currently rewriting [beta](#).

Key Achievements:

- Researched UI design patterns and principles to create the most intuitive user experience possible.
- Solicited user feedback and designer insights, and continuously iterated on the design to improve UI/UX.
- Integrated site with session replay tools, heat maps, and an A/B testing framework to optimize UX.

Senior Engineer   May 2012 - Jan. 2016
Keep | *Greater New York City Area*

Developed backend infrastructure and API layer that powered interactive curated product discovery iOS and Android mobile app for fashion, home decor, and design shopping.

Key Achievements:

- Developed interactive tool for testing internal API layer, which streamlined mobile feature development, aided debugging efforts, and improved collaboration between server side and client side teams.
- Rewrote and managed a universal cart order fulfillment system, transforming a confusing page requiring heavy training to a simple wizard-based workflow system that created steps based on conditional order logic.

Freelance Engineer   June 2011 - May 2012

3atmospheres | *Greater New York City Area*

- Created social food discovery [service](#) heavily integrated with Facebook, Twitter, and Foursquare.
- Developed backend infrastructure and REST-API for Instagram-like [iPhone app](#) geared towards fashion.

Lead Engineer   Dec. 2010 - June 2011

Ebates (formerly OneReceipt) | *Greater New York City Area*

- Hired as the first employee at OneReceipt.com (acquired by Ebates), a tool that scans an email inbox for purchase-related emails and parses, organizes and generates detailed analytics on such purchases.
- Bootstrapped infrastructure from a pluggable, email-parsing framework to a DataMapper system that evaluated and transformed message content into a structured format.

Co-Founder / Engineer   Aug. 2008 - May 2010

2Sprout, LLC | *New Haven, CT*

- Designed and implemented server-side infrastructure, including the website, for platform focused on creating a universal and open prototype for real-time, semi-structured data aggregation.
- Bootstrapped infrastructure from a pluggable, email-parsing framework to a DataMapper system that evaluated and transformed message content into a structured format.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Engineer | You Want Game   2008 - 2009

- Bootstrapped YouWantGame.com, delivering the concept to private beta, and developed the entire infrastructure.

RECOGNITION

- Consistently recognized as Top 15 Python GitHub Developer in New York ([source](#))
- Developed two popular open source Python libraries: pytube and python-lambda, both of which have been adopted by in some capacity by fortune 500 companies.

TOP TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python | System Architecture | Network Architecture | Networking Internals | Unix/Linux | Build Pipelines
OpenCV | Task Queues | Process Automation | SQL | Node.js | Django | Flask | JavaScript | Bash | NGINX | Git
Scrapers | Serverless Architecture | Redis | Telephony | AWS

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Training: PyCon Conference; Cisco Certified Network Associate Courses

Education: Computer Information Systems, Southern Connecticut State University