

Chao Justice Lai

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Bio: A programmer who enjoys working with strongly typed languages such as Typescript, Go. Believes that Ruby is garbage. Owns a cat Snowball named after a character in Animal Farm.

Education

Baruch College

Bachelor in Marketing Management

New York, NY

2014/08 – 2019/12

Work Experience

Afficiency

Full Stack Developer

New York, NY

2023/03 – Present

- Contribute to a digital platform (React, Typescript, Go, Python, Flask, MySQL), providing life insurance solutions and building a bridge between retailers, insurance agents, and end users.
- Write microservices in Python & Golang to ship RESTFUL APIs and handle third-party integrations.
- Write raw sql queries, transform into human-readable format, and output most up-to-date data from the database.
- Actively engage in team meetings and brainstorming sessions, rapidly prototype and iterate on new features.
- Work closely with the design team to translate wireframes and mockups into interactive web pages, maintaining a consistently high standard of visual design and user interface.

August Schools

Software Engineer

New York, NY

2022/06 – 2023/02

- Supported web development (React, Typescript, Ruby on Rails, MongoDB) of note taking services, driving quarterly revenue increases in 18% from public/private school clients.
- Conducted thorough testing and debugging of code to ensure the platform was responsive, scalable, and compatible across different browsers and devices.
- Implemented SSO with Microsoft; leveraged Ruby gem Pundit to restrict certain views/actions to authorized users only.
- Maintained GraphQL API endpoints to enable PDF document generating/collating, image resizing; manipulated YAML config files to support rich text editing.

Alice Financial

Associate Software Engineer

New York, NY

2021/02 – 2022/05

- Leveraged financial technology (React, Typescript, Ruby on Rails, Postgres) in saving a yearly estimate of \$3.5 million on commuter spending.
- Collaborated with a team of senior engineers to implement new features and enhancements to improve user experience and increase website functionality.
- Contributed to a GraphQL project responsible for handling user's HSA spending logic and validating contribution limits.
- Assisted in maintaining notion docs, including technical specifications, user guides, and troubleshooting resources, enhancing team efficiency and knowledge sharing.

Scholarship Junkies

Junior Software Engineer

Seattle, WA

2020/08 – 2021/02

- Powered a non-profit mission (React, Javascript, CSS, Node.js) in matching students with qualifying packages.
- Used Git to manage and track code changes, ensuring efficient collaboration and codebase integrity.
- Integrated third-party APIs to automate application submissions and to scan for fraudulent applications.
- Fixed business logo misalignment in email template and email subscription bug.

Side Projects

- Wrote a jupyter script for mine girlfriend's accounting job to filter thousand rows of transactions by parsing two excel files, grouping transactions by payments, fuzzy matching the vendor names.

Skills

- Languages: experienced in Typescript/Javascript, comfortable with Ruby, Python, Go (in random order).
- Framework/Database: React, Rails, Express, GraphQL, Postgres, MongoDB, MySQL
- Developer Tools: VSCode, Git, Docker, Vim