

Brandon Willett

Education

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

- ◇ Graduated in 2018
- ◇ B.S. in Computer Science (3.82)
- ◇ B.A. in Mathematics (3.80)

Skills

BACKEND

- ◇ Go, Python, Java, Scala, Javascript
- ◇ Web Frameworks (Django, Flask, Rails)
- ◇ Streaming Pipelines (Kafka)
- ◇ Workflow Platforms (Airflow, Luigi)
- ◇ Transactional Databases (Postgres, Cass)
- ◇ Analytical Databases
- ◇ Caches (Memcached, Redis)

PLATFORM

- ◇ Version Control (Git)
- ◇ CI/CD (Github Actions, Gitlab)
- ◇ Telemetry (Prometheus, Datadog)
- ◇ Containerization (Docker, Containerd)
- ◇ Build Tools (Rake, Bazel)
- ◇ Infra as Code (CF, Terraform)
- ◇ Service Discovery (DNS, Consul, Envoy)
- ◇ Load Balancers (L4, L7)
- ◇ Reverse Proxies (NGINX, HAProxy)

CLOUD

- ◇ AWS (ALB, NLB, EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda)
- ◇ GCP (GLB, GCE, GCS, Cloud SQL)
- ◇ Azure (ALB, VMSS, ABS)
- ◇ Kubernetes (ask me about any resource)

A versatile developer with experience in large-scale data processing, API serving, and cloud infrastrucuring. A healthy software backend is no good without a healthy social backend, and I work hard to do right by both the computers and the people.

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Experience

DATADOG

New York, NY

Site Reliability Engineer

May 2020 – Jun 2023

- ◇ Kicked off several reliability initiatives, including founding a group to lead weekly metrics-wide incident learnings, unified SLI tracking, and running personally many production-readiness reviews
- ◇ Operated fully in both platform & product, building many custom platform features to improve service reliability and dev workflows
- ◇ Completed adoption of the new Kubernetes platform in metrics, migrating some of Datadog's largest + most complicated services (the primary TSDB, the primary public LB) without downtime
- ◇ Identified (and saw to completion) several cost-efficiency projects, like the improvement of pod resource limits and bin-packing
- ◇ Hosted architecture overview sessions, for 1-10 people, to help new hires feel empowered (instead of confused) as quickly as possible
- ◇ Contributed heavily to IaC, CI, and automation workflows, so product devs could mostly ignore their services' 40+ Helm charts

ACTIONIQ

New York, NY

Distributed Systems Engineer

Jun 2018 – Apr 2020

- ◇ Designed, advocated for, and implemented the procedure for autoscaling query execution on EC2, reducing our AWS bill by more than 50%
- ◇ Drove scalability improvements for the OSS job scheduling platform Luigi, and contributed some of that back upstream
- ◇ Maintained the Prometheus cluster (later, Datadog) and led internal talks and workshops on best practices around metrics and observability
- ◇ Enabled dynamic configuration updates with Ansible
- ◇ Brought some of the first Terraform modules to AIQ, used them to build the first version of our streaming ingest platform using IaC

EDU.CHAT

New York, NY

Software Engineering Intern

Jun 2017 – Aug 2017

- ◇ Developed and tested an NLP chatbot alongside 3 other developers
- ◇ Learned Python implementations for message passing, parallelization and task queue systems to distribute the workload (like Celery and Redis)