

Farid Rener

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Montreal, QC, Canada

Profile

Full-stack Ruby and JavaScript developer concerned with using technology in a socially just, civic manner. Likes clean code, social and environmental justice, interacting with end users, and trying new things. Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English, fluent in French.

Experience

Senior Developer, Provender – 2013–Present

PostgreSQL, PostGIS, Ruby on Rails, Elasticsearch, Backbone.js, ZURB Foundation, Rspec, Mocha; provender.com

At Provender, I worked on a semi-remote technical team of four people to design and build a custom e-commerce platform which offers local farmers access to new markets.

- Led a full-site redesign using an iterative user-centered design process;
- Designed and built a full suite of farm-side inventory management tools;
- Implemented complex business logic in Ruby to create two-sided personalized marketplaces for farms and restaurants which incorporated location and schedule information;
- Implemented multi-faceted product search with Elasticsearch;
- Created training materials and documentation for internal and external use;
- Responded to technical support queries from farmers and other non-technical users;

Web Developer, Self-Employed – 2011–Present

- **GrowFoodTech:** *MongoDB; Python; Tornado; OAuth; Bootstrap; growfoodtech.ca (2014)*
Customized, extended and implemented an open-source application written in Python.
- **Benoit Jutras:** *Wordpress, ZURB Foundation, Gimp; benoitjutras.com (2014)*
- **VIVA! art action:** *Wordpress; vivamontreal.org (2013)*
- **Silo Magazine:** *Wordpress, Gimp; silomontreal.com (2013)*
- **Convergence Journal:** *Wordpress; convergencejournal.ca (2011)*

News Editor, The McGill Daily – 2013

Reported and wrote articles pertinent to McGill University community – with a focus on off-campus affairs. My roles included editing, assigning, and writing relevant news stories for the bi-weekly print and online newspaper. Also wrote arts & culture articles, and a satirical column about bikes, love, and bike-love.

Researcher, McGill University – 2008–2012

- **FARMM, Prof. Jemtrud (2012):** Worked on a research project to investigate qualities, biases, and benefits inherent in specific contemporary technological modes of creation. Created interactive simulations to model the uses of sensors in architecture
- **Shared Reality Environment Lab, Prof. Cooperstock (2009-2010):** Researched a human-computer interface using textured surfaces on an interactive floor
- **Haptics Lab, Prof. Hayward (2008):** Built an electronic device to work inside an fMRI machine to stimulate a forefinger for an experiment to understand the functioning of the brain when a forefinger is stimulated

Skills

Languages: Ruby, Javascript, Coffeescript, Python, HTML/CSS, SASS, PHP;
Frameworks: Rails, Backbone.js, Marionette.js, ZURB Foundation, Twitter Bootstrap, d3.js, Wordpress, Quintus.js, Tornado;
Testing: Rspec, Mocha, Jasmine;
Databases: Lucene Elasticsearch, PostgreSQL (with PostGIS & hstore extensions), MongoDB;
Tools: Git, Compass, Guard, Ansible, Codeship;
Design: The GIMP, Balsamiq, Keynote;
Writing: My writing has been published by Maisonneuve Magazine, the Montreal Gazette, Art Threat, Silo Magazine, and the McGill Daily;
Music: Skilled drummer. I have played in internationally touring pop groups and often play shows around Montreal;
Bicycle Mechanics: Bicycle mechanic with 3 years professional experience.
Fluent in **French**. Beginner proficiency in **German**.

Volunteer Roles

Co-organizer, Hacks/Hackers Montreal (2013-present)

Seasonal meet-up sponsored by the *Montreal Gazette* bringing together journalists and programmers to discuss the use of technology in journalism. I find and invite interesting speakers, and organize the space.

Radio producer, CKUT Radio (2011-2013)

Regular contributor to CKUT radio (90.3 FM) on issues of cycling, technology, and Montreal arts & culture.

Board member, Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) McGill (2012)

Participation in collective meetings. Took part in organizing and promoting events to raise awareness of social justice issues at McGill and in the Montreal community. Helped publish the *convergence journal*, a journal of undergraduate and community research focussing on social and environmental justice issues.

Collective member, The Flat Bike Collective & Le Petit Vélo Rouge (2009-2012)

Ran weekly workshops on bicycle mechanics. Collaborated with Montreal Native Friendship Centre to give mechanics workshops to youth. Created series of winter-riding materials.

Camp director and Teacher, AKES; Khorog, Tajikistan; (2005)

Designed, led, and organized a rural summer camp for 55 youths aged 14-18 from rural Tajikistan to improve leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Created two weeks of outdoors and leadership programming for the youth, many of whom had never left the city. Also taught Physics and Chemistry to 8th and 9th graders for 2 months.

Education

• **B. Eng. (Hons.):** Honours Electrical Engineering, Minor Musical Science & Technology
CGPA: 3.61; McGill University, Montreal, QC (2011)
Honours thesis: *Engineering for Social & Environmental Justice: A Design Framework towards a Sustainable Engineering.*
• **M. Arch:** Masters of Architecture, History & Theory
CGPA: 3.93; McGill University, Montreal, QC (2013)