Alen Rafagudinov

AI ENGINEER / SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

SUMMARY

With over 20 years of experience in the tech industry and holding an MS in Data Science and a BS in Computer Science. Proficient in both office and remote work environments. Skilled in a range of technologies and programming languages, with a particular fondness for Python. Software development is not just a career but also a hobby. Active in the tech community, participating in hackathons and key conferences like PyCon. An adaptable team player, enthusiastic about collaborating on projects that positively impact the world

AMAZING PROJECT

Designed and developed a system for monitoring gas emissions under the UN Kyoto Protocol

EDUCATION

MS degree in Data Science (2022) in HSE University (diploma with distinction)

https://ac.hse.ru/en/ranking

BS degree in Computer Science (2012) in National Research University of Electronic Technology

https://eng.miet.ru

WORK EXPERIENCE

2023-Present: AI Engineer / Software Developer as UAE-based freelancer

Selected skills: Python, AI Agents, LLM, Prompt Engineering, RAG, LangGraph, CrewAI, MCP, OpenAI API, Anthropic API, Cursor, Claude Code

2022-2023: Technical Lead @ Dubizzle (https://dubizzle.com) - market-leading online classifieds platform in the Middle East

- As the technical lead, managed the teams by providing technical guidance
- Developed a robust and scalable auction system for Dubizzle Marketplace, leading online classifieds platforms in the Middle East region. Allowing buyers to place instant bids, enhancing the user experience
- Led the system design and development of ATS (Application Tracking System), an innovative solution that streamlined the hiring process for businesses using the Dubizzle platform (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSv6CZMJTZM)
- Conceptualized, designed, and developed an internal gamification tool for Dubizzle aimed at motivating developers to perform code reviews more frequently, fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement

Selected skills: Python, Django, DRF, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Kubernetes, AWS

2014-2020: Founder @ PalCar - platform for buying cars from a friend of a friend

- Engineered both frontend and backend systems
- Implemented comprehensive unit, integration, and functional testing
- Configured ELK Stack and Sentry for real-time system monitoring
- Regularly identified and resolved performance bottlenecks through diligent system profiling
- Designed scalable microservice architecture, and established efficient CI/CD pipelines using Jenkins
- Implemented effective SEO techniques, including on-page optimization and link-building, to improve search rankings

- Learned vital lessons in prioritizing customer needs and market insights over product features and technologies, embracing methodologies like Lean Startup, Business Model Generation, and Value Proposition Design

Selected skills: Python, Perl, JS, CSS, HTML5, MySQL, Redis, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch, Neo4j, Docker, AWS

2009-2013: IT Architect @ Core Carbon Group ApS - environmental finance company

- Developed an emission tracker for monitoring gas emissions under the UN Kyoto Protocol
- Provided on-demand system support and maintenance following the active development phase

Selected skills: Perl, MySQL, ETL, JS, CSS, HTML, Memcached, Apache, Nginx, OpenVPN

2010-2010: Remote Software Developer @ DoctorBase (https://doctorbase.com) - B2B2C health platform for doctors offices and hospitals

- Developed a core part of a geospatial search engine
- I was one of the first software developers in DoctorBase. Later this startup was acquired by Kareo.

Selected skills: Perl, HTML, JavaScript, CSS, MySQL, Solr, Apache

2008-2009: Senior Software Developer @ OneAgile - digital-agency, part of A1 investment company

- Developed an analytical system for Philip Morris International, streamlining the ETL process to convert raw marketing data into a usable format

Selected skills: Perl, ETL, Crystal Reports

2007-2008: Senior Software Developer @ Rambler - search engine and one of the biggest web portals

- Contributed to the development and maintenance of a high-traffic search engine and email system, honing skills in managing services utilized daily by millions of users
- Engineered a control interface for ad displays, a key driver of the company's multi-million dollar revenue stream

Selected skills: Perl, C/C++, MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Apache, Nginx

2006-2007: Senior Software Developer @ Universal Valuables

- Developed a digital currency exchange service, acquiring expertise in the secure processing and storage of digital currencies
- Implemented a control system for Alfa Capital's shareholders

Selected skills: Perl, MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Apache, Nginx

2005-2006: Head of Software Development Department @ Diamond Scent

- Developed a web-based email interface akin to Gmail, gaining extensive knowledge in mail protocols and various mail tools (Postfix, Sendmail, qmail)

Selected skills: Perl, C, C++, MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Apache, Postfix, Sendmail, Qmail, Courier IMAP

2004-2005: Software Developer @ IPONWEB (https://iponweb.com) - global leader in programmatic & RTB

- Developed a testing framework for Right Media, a project that was subsequently acquired by Yahoo!. This experience fostered my strong advocacy for Test-Driven Development

Selected skills: Perl, TDD

2003-2004: Software Developer @ Sema.Ru - web studio

- Developed a content management system, collaborating with a team of skilled graphic designers to create over 30 visually appealing websites and landing pages using this CMS

Selected skills: Perl, MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Apache

Prior to joining Sema.Ru, my experience was primarily in university and personal projects. My coding journey began in **1992** as a school student, laying the foundation for my future in software development

SELECTED SKILLS

Python (since 2016)

Perl was my go-to backend programming language for many years. In 2016, I transitioned to Python, quickly developing a deep affinity for it. My expertise encompasses a broad range of Python tools and frameworks, including FastAPI, Django, async/await, and proficiency in various Machine Learning and Deep Learning libraries. Actively involved in the dynamic Python community, I participate in events like PyCon and am committed to best practices, embodying the Pythonic way of coding

SQL (since 1998)

Equipped with a strong theoretical and practical understanding of database design, encompassing aspects such as indexing, table normalization, storage engines, and replication. Possess significant experience in crafting, profiling, and optimizing complex SQL queries. Comfortable handling intricate joins, groupings, transactions, and stored procedures. Experienced in configuring and managing various database servers, including MySQL and PostgreSQL, with proficiency in PostGIS

NoSQL

I have worked with various NoSQL databases, including MongoDB, Redis, Memcached, Neo4j, Solr, and Elasticsearch. Also, I've made several attempts at reinventing the wheel by trying to create self-made databases, a process that taught me valuable lessons :)

JavaScript (since 1997)

Primarily a backend developer, I also have substantial experience with JavaScript, beginning with my first script in 1997 for Netscape Navigator. Skilled in vanilla JavaScript, I've worked with libraries and frameworks such as jQuery, Vue, and Polymer. I've developed Progressive Web Apps (PWAs) using Workbox. While I initially employed Webpack for module bundling, I have since shifted to Vite. Currently, Vue 3 (Nuxt 3) is my frontend framework of choice

HTML/CSS (since 1997)

Reflecting on the era when HTML tables were the sole method for positioning elements, I have continually evolved my skills to align with best practices. Currently, I adeptly use HTML5 and modern CSS (SASS) techniques, including responsive design, flexbox, and grid layouts. Additionally, I have substantial experience with Bootstrap framework

SELECTED SKILLS AS KEYWORDS

Agile, AJAX, Apache, AWS, Bcrypt, Big Data, DevOps, Django, DRF, C, C++, Claude API, Claude Code, CrewAI, CSS, CustDev, Docker, DOM, ElasticSearch, ETL, FastAPI, FastCGI, Flask, FreeBSD, Git, Gunicorn, Hardware, HTML, I2P, JavaScript, Jenkins, JWT, Kubernetes, LangGraph, Lean Startup, Linux, LLM, MacOS, MCP, Microservices, MVC, Neo4j, Nginx, Nuxt, OOP, OpenAI API, OpenVPN, Perl, Profiling, Prompt Engineering, PWA, Python, QA, Qmail, RabbitMQ, RAG, Regex, Scrum, Security, Sentry, Sketch, Slack, SQL, Solr, Split Testing, SSL, TCP/IP, TDD, Trello, VirtualBox, Vite, VMware, VSCode, Vue, Web Scraping, Webpack, XML, XPath

MEMBERSHIP

Toptal

According to Toptal, I'm one of the top 3% of the world's best Software Developers
https://www.toptal.com/resume/alen-rafagudinov

REFERENCES

References are available upon request

CONTACTS

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https://www.linkedin.com/in/rafagudinov

https://github.com/ralan