Rihito Arai

Senior Software Engineer / Tech Lead

Toronto, Canada
📞 +1 (437) 298-9908
📞 +81 (90) 7948-0077
✉ licht.e.jima@gmail.com
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Professional Summary

A proactive, team-oriented **Senior Software Engineer / Tech Lead** with **6+ years** of experience in designing and implementing scalable backend services using **Go, Ruby, and Python**. Takes ownership to "do the right thing" by enforcing high standards of quality, security, and testing—even in legacy or poorly maintained codebases. Skilled in microservices, Kubernetes, Terraform, and modern cloud platforms (AWS, GCP). Adept at bridging communication between business and dev teams in bilingual/cross-cultural environments. Has led teams and supported junior engineers through mentorship and technical knowledge-sharing. Brings a self-driven mindset and takes initiative from the engineering side to improve code quality, team workflows, and overall system architecture.

Availability

Currently seeking part-time, fully remote opportunities. Available for full-time engagement from mid-September to December 2025, and part-time (80-100 hours/month) thereafter.

Key Skills

Backend & Languages	Go, Ruby, Python, TypeScript
Frontend (Basic)	React.js (simple admin UIs)
Infrastructure & DevOps	AWS (EKS, EC2, S3, Lambda, etc.), GCP (GKE, CloudRun, CloudSQL, Pub/Sub, Cloud Build, Firebase, etc.), Heroku, Kubernetes, Terraform, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, Monitoring (Datadog, Sentry), CDN (Fastly, Cloudflare)
Databases	PostgreSQL, MySQL, MSSQL, Redis, DynamoDB
Security	Implemented encryption & compliance for sensitive data (e.g., MyNumber, Japan's government-issued ID system, similar to SIN in Canada)
Testing & Quality	CI/CD pipelines, legacy code refactoring, test coverage improvement
Third Party Services	OAuth2.0 (LINE, Facebook), Stripe, Ory Keto / Kratos, etc...
Agile & Communication	Scrum Master, TDD & code review advocacy, OpenAPI/Swagger, gRPC or GraphQL for API designing
Languages	Japanese (Native), English (Business; 3+ years of professional experience), Spanish (Beginner)

Work Experience

Jan 2025 – Present   **Senior Applications Developer**, *CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce)*, Toronto, Canada (Hybrid)
- Proposed and implemented improvements to internal APIs, including new schema designs and reverse proxy integration between legacy and new systems.
- Refactored and stabilized poorly tested legacy codebases, improving maintainability and reducing bugs in production.
- Discovered and reported security vulnerabilities and data inconsistency issues; actively contributed to resolving them.
- Led internal knowledge-sharing sessions for a few junior engineers to improve team competency in backend architecture and CI/CD.
- Took initiative from the engineering side to propose architectural improvements, raising code quality and development speed across the team.

Nov 2021 – Feb 2025   **Senior Software Engineer / (Acting) Tech Lead**, *WealthPark Co., Ltd.*, Tokyo, Japan (Remote)
- **Access Control Service (Nov–Dec 2021)**: Created a Go (go-kit) microservice on AWS EKS to manage role-based permissions with Ory Keto. Secured user access across multiple administration apps.
- **Data Migration (Jan–Mar 2022)**: Developed pipelines (Python, Airflow, AWS Lambda) to integrate external real estate data.
- **Alternative Investment Project (Apr 2022 – Present)**:
  - Joined at inception, clarifying ambiguous business requirements and implementing investor registration & fund management features (Go microservices + gRPC).
  - Led a sub-team of four engineers during implementing investment features, introducing unit tests and code review best practices. Code coverage increased from 30% to $\sim 70\%$ overall; new features reached $\sim 90\%$.
  - Dealt with MyNumber data (similar to SIN), ensuring encryption and compliance with government regulations.
  - Operated in a English-speaking environment, bridging communications between global dev teams and Japanese stakeholders.
- **Key Achievements**:
  - Established a strong testing culture, significantly reducing production defects and enabling more frequent releases.
  - Proactively dismantled silos between the "system design team" (Japanese) and the international dev team (English).

Jun 2019 – Oct 2021   **Server-Side and Research Engineer / Scrum Master**, *WED, inc.*, Tokyo
- Built and maintained backend services in Go, Ruby on Rails, Python on GCP.
- Resolved critical concurrency issues in a high-traffic money management service ($\sim 100K$ MAU), preventing data inconsistency before it impacted end users.
- Served as Scrum Master, introducing agile ceremonies, code review guidelines, and linting tools to reduce bottlenecks and enhance team autonomy.

Oct 2018 – Jun 2019   **Intern Server-Side Engineer**, *FiNC Technologies, Inc.*, Tokyo, Japan
- Developed REST APIs with Ruby on Rails for health/fitness mobile apps.
- Integrated OAuth2.0-based social logins (LINE, Facebook).
- Gained foundational skills in microservice design, DB architecture, and user authentication.

Feb 2020 – Present	**Freelance / Side Projects**
	○ **Enterprise LLM Pipeline and Admin Tooling (TypeScript, Ruby on Rails, Google Apps Script)**: Collaborated with a startup client to improve internal LLM workflows and develop custom admin tooling. Enhanced pipeline reliability and developer UX by organizing legacy scripts and adding new UI components.
	○ **Meditation App Backend (Ruby on Rails, GCP)**: Single-handedly built user management and audio content features; deployed via Terraform on GCP.
	○ **Buy-Now-Pay-Later Credit Service (Go)**: Contributed to API implementations with a Vietnam-based team, focusing on payment logic.

Education

Sep 2021	**M.Eng. in Electrical Engineering & Information Systems**, *The University of Tokyo*, Tokyo, Japan
	○ Researched entity matching algorithms for receipts (Python, ML).
Mar 2017	**B.Eng. in Applied Physics**, *Hokkaido University*, Hokkaido, Japan
	○ Studied complex network theory and computational methods (Fortran).