

Contact

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Top Skills

Ruby on Rails
JavaScript
Objective-C

Russ d'Sa

Entrepreneur and Engineer
San Francisco, California, United States

Summary

I build things.

Experience

LiveKit

Founder

March 2021 - Present (3 years 6 months)

Everywhere

Building the transport layer for AI computing

Medium

Product

July 2019 - March 2021 (1 year 9 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

I ran product for creators and readers, so, pretty much (unofficially) ran product.

Evie Labs (Acquired by Medium)

Founder

January 2013 - June 2019 (6 years 6 months)

Palo Alto, California

We made it work (and got very lucky), but seriously, don't raise before you've found some PMF.

Shipped many things, but ultimately couldn't figure out how to make money –

Voxel: Invented the concept of 'mobile app streaming' and 'playable ads'.

Think: cloud gaming or Mighty, but for mobile apps. Served tens of millions of sessions for King, Supercell, and other partners.

Evie: A native mobile app search product (~750K DAU), integrated into our custom launcher. Officially recommended by Google, and ranked #1-2 in the category for the last four years.

Sidescreen: An ML-based news feed and other utilities across Verizon Android devices with over 1M DAU. 100+ article impressions and 15 min. spent per user/day.

Kyro: An app for tracking prices of, reading news about, and researching cryptocurrencies.

Expa

Employee 1

January 2013 - December 2013 (1 year)

An engineer, living at home with his parents, willing to work nights and weekends for equity.

Twitter

Engineer

November 2009 - March 2012 (2 years 5 months)

A glorious period of my 20s where I ran a 996 lifestyle.

Second client engineer at the company.

Inventor of Twitter's in-tweet application platform, Twitter Cards. Well, it used to be an app platform. You could play music on iTunes, add movies to your Netflix queue, and buy items from Amazon -- all from a tweet. Now it's just photos and videos. >_< Maybe Elon will bring it back?

Co-led (with Meta) design of the OAuth 2.0 specification.

Co-led or significantly involved in shipping:

- hovercards
- @anywhere (Twitter's FB Connect)
- #NewTwitter
- activity streams (i.e. Notifications & "For You" tabs)

Created initial versions/prototypes for numerous smaller projects including:

- group conversations/channels
- username autocomplete
- live syntax highlighting
- geotagged tweets
- photo filters
- emoji support

- account linking/integrations (Netflix, Amazon)

Author and maintainer of BlueJS - Twitter's original JavaScript API which powered all of Twitter.com for some time.

Main contributor to Twitter's JS Streaming Event SDK

23andMe

Engineer

March 2008 - November 2009 (1 year 9 months)

I seem to have a habit of working on ideas too far ahead of their time... /shrug

Co-led or significantly involved in shipping:

- Publishing and sharing genomic data to third-party networks
- News feed
- Disease and ancestry community forums
- Disease tracking, survey platform for collecting phenotypic data

Started initial work on creating a developer platform and API for genetic data.

Wrote development frameworks in Python - ORM, MVC wrappers, Form Wizards

Blue Frog Gaming

Founder

September 2007 - February 2008 (6 months)

DraftKings, a decade too early. Bummer.

But also, gambling. Not really good for the world, so kinda glad it failed.

Funded by YC.

MeetYou

Founder

April 2007 - September 2007 (6 months)

Impromptu video meetings with strangers — three years before ChatRoulette and Omegle, five years before Airtime.

Even Sean Parker couldn't make this idea work. I'm at peace.

Funded by YC.

Cisco

Engineer

September 2006 - April 2007 (8 months)

Why would a router company ever want to build a consumer-facing app? Long story, ask me sometime.

Lead Ruby/Rails development on media consumption site. Built CF-based recommendation system for different types of content and rich media.

UC Davis

Researcher

September 2005 - December 2006 (1 year 4 months)

Conducted research and developed a prototype system to support user-generated spatial annotations on Web-based maps.

Think Wikipedia + Microformats + Google MyMaps + Waze

Had I been more forward-looking in college, it could've been a thing. Maybe.

Actually what I should have done was spend more time on my initial research project: Planet Labs back in 2006.

Education

Y Combinator

Summer · (2007 - 2007)

University of California, Davis

MS, Computer Science · (2005 - 2006)

University of California, Davis

BS w/ Honors, Computer Science · (2001 - 2005)