

Ryan Parman

Cloud-native engineering leader with a focus on reliability, scalability, and security for the modern web.

Most-Recently: Enterprise Architect, Cloud Center of Excellence at McGraw Hill.

[GitHub](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [Stack Overflow](#)

TIP

Long-form "CV-style" version of my résumé: [Web](#), [PDF](#), [Word](#), and a lightly-truncated version on [LinkedIn](#).

Shorter-form résumé omits recommendations and has only 10 years of work experience: [PDF](#).

Summary

Ryan Parman is a cloud-native engineering leader with over 25 years of experience, who specializes in technical leadership, software development, site reliability engineering, and cybersecurity for the modern web. A seasoned problem-solver who excels at listening, learning, adapting, and driving continuous improvement. Committed to delivering exceptional work, building impactful solutions, and elevating team performance. Thrives in environments which empower innovation and becoming a force-multiplier.

Key accomplishments include:

- Founding member of the AWS SDK team.
- Patented multi-factor authentication as a service at WePay.
- Instrumental in defining CI, CD, and SRE disciplines at McGraw Hill.
- Conceived the idea of serverless, event-driven, responsive functions in the cloud at Amazon Web Services in 2010 (AWS Lambda).
- Contributed significantly to numerous other high-impact projects.

Technical Skills and Software

While my experience and personal technical interests are broad, the following list is focused more on my interest in DevTools, DevOps, and SRE roles. I would be happy to share additional experience for other areas upon request.

NOTE

Each skill listed includes a current proficiency level — Low, Medium, High, or Expert — along with a directional arrow indicating proficiency trends. An upward arrow (↑) signifies that I am actively working with the skill, and my proficiency is likely to increase over time. A downward arrow (↓) indicates that I have not utilized the skill recently, and my proficiency may decrease unless refreshed.

- **Operating Systems:** [macOS](#) (Expert: ↑), [CentOS Linux](#) (High: ↓), [Amazon Linux 2](#) (High: ↓), [Amazon Linux 2023](#) (High: ↑), [Alpine Linux](#) (High: ↑), [Windows](#) (Med), [Ubuntu Linux](#) (Med: ↑).
- **Standard Software Engineering Toolbox:** Dependency injection, performance profiling, character encodings, [Git](#), Linux, Makefiles, and other fundamentals (High: ↑); memorized algorithms (Low); memorized Big-O notation (Low; I never learned it formally).
- **Programming Languages:** [Golang](#) (High: ↑), [Python](#) (High: ↑), [Bash](#) (High: ↑), [Modern PHP](#) (High: ↓) (not the bad old PHP that everyone hates), Browser [JavaScript](#) (High: ↓), [Node.js](#) JavaScript (Medium: ↓), [Ruby](#) (Low: ↓). Starting to learn [Swift](#), but am just scratching the surface.
- **Cloud Computing:** [AWS](#) (Organizations, EC2, RDS, S3, CloudFront, SQS, SNS, IAM, STS, CloudWatch Monitoring, CloudWatch Logs + Insights, Lambda, ECS-on-EC2, ECR, API Gateway, Auto-scaling, CloudTrail, Elastic Transcoder, ElastiCache, Route 53, ELB/ALB, ACM, SSM, Parameter Store) (mostly High/Expert: ↑), [AWS SDKs + CLI](#) (High: ↑), [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#) (High: ↑); [Google Cloud](#)'s core infrastructure services (Low: ↓), [Microsoft Azure](#) (None: ↑)
- **Provisioning:** [Terraform/OpenTofu](#) (Expert: ↑), [Terragrunt](#) (Med/High: ↑), [Packer](#) (High), [Ansible](#) (Med: ↓), [Vagrant](#) (Med: ↓), writing custom [Modules](#) (Expert: ↑), writing custom [providers](#) with the [Plugin Framework](#) (Med: ↑).
- **API and Scalable System Design:** Understanding and designing highly-scalable, distributed systems for running web applications and web services (High: ↑); JSON-over-HTTP web service API design (High); [GraphQL](#) with [Relay](#) implementations (Med/High: ↑); Understand the difference between [micro-service vs a "distributed monolith"](#) (High: ↑); [OpenAPI](#) (née Swagger) (Med); [JSON Schema](#) (High: ↑); [gRPC](#) (Low: ↑); [12-factor design](#) (High: ↑); [Ent](#) (Med: ↑).

- **Containers and Orchestration:** [Docker](#) (High: ↑), [Amazon ECS](#) (High: ↓); [Kubernetes](#) (Low: ↑).
- **Enterprise Services:** [Artifactory](#) (Expert: ↑), [Jira](#) (High: ↑), [Confluence](#) (High: ↑), [GitHub Enterprise](#) (High: ↑), [GitHub](#) (High: ↑), [Pingdom](#) (Med: ↓), [New Relic](#) (Med: ↑), [Datadog](#) (Med: ↓), [Papertrail](#) (Med: ↓), [Slack](#) (High: ↑), [PagerDuty](#) (High: ↑).
- **Databases & Key-Value/Document stores:** [MySQL](#) (Med: ↑), [Redis](#) (High: ↓), [PostgreSQL](#) (Med: ↑), [Memcache](#) (Low: ↓), [Atlas](#) (Low: ↑).
- **Metrics, Traces, and Logs:** [OpenTelemetry](#) (Med: ↑), [New Relic](#) (Med: ↑), [Datadog](#) (Med: ↓), [Jaeger](#) (Low: ↑).
- **Metadata and Config Formats:** [RDFa](#), [Dublin Core](#), [FOAF](#), [OpenSearch](#), [JSON-LD](#), [Microformats](#), [RSS](#), [Atom \(RFC 4287\)](#), [JSON](#), [YAML](#), [TOML](#), [XML](#), [HCL](#), [Schema.org](#), [Open Graph](#).

Work Experience & Notable Projects

[Northwood Labs](#) — Colorado

Owner (January 2024—Present)

Northwood Labs is an incubator for security and reliability tooling. (Presently a *side-hustle*, not a full-time gig.)

It is a tiny company based in Colorado who thinks that software engineering, site reliability, operations, and cybersecurity are all parts of the same whole. We want to empower teams to build quality software and reliable services, teach where there are knowledge gaps, and make it possible for every user to have access to the best in security.

Historically, most of the tools built to address these areas have done a poor job of integrating across all relevant disciplines, and can also cost a small fortune in order to help teams ensure their products and services are well-built, reliable, and secure.

[McGraw Hill](#) — Remote (since COVID), previously Seattle, WA

Enterprise Architect, Cloud Center of Excellence (January 2024—October 2024)

Assumed a role influencing the technical direction of the entire organization. Collaborated closely with members of the Cloud Center of Excellence, Reliability Engineering, Cybersecurity, Networking, and Application Development teams to prevent "Ivory Tower Syndrome." Ensured a focus on real-world, actionable feedback and provided strategic direction aligned with practical needs.

- **Documentation and Training:** Continued to ensure that people could continue to learn about new topics without requiring any specific human to become a bottleneck.
- **AWS Organizations and Control Tower:** Continued to be involved in the oversight and direction of our AWS stack, security, guardrails, and more.
- **Cross-Cloud Collaboration:** Collaborated with peers focusing on Microsoft Azure and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. Deepened understanding of our cloud fabric to enable high-performance networking across multiple clouds. Identified opportunities to extend the security measures and guardrails developed for AWS to other cloud platforms. Trained peers on the effective use of Terraform for cloud management.

Principal Cloud and Platform Engineer (June 2020—January 2024)

Transitioned from Engineering Manager to a strategic technical leadership role, focusing on projects I'd initiated. Planned the product roadmap for those projects and integrated solutions into our highly heterogeneous application ecosystem. By stepping away from direct personnel management, I was able to concentrate on providing technical leadership.

- **Documentation:** Prolific documentarian. Documentation is worth 50% of your grade.
- **Reliability Platform:** Products that I had personally pioneered (ECS-optimized Base AMI, Prism, Monitoring-as-Code, Terraform modules) became core pieces of our "reliability platform" alongside off-the-shelf software/services such as [AWS Control Tower](#), [Artifactory](#), [GitHub Enterprise](#), [GitHub Actions](#), [Circle CI Enterprise](#), [Jenkins](#), and more.
- **Control Tower:** Partnered with McGraw Hill Enterprise Architecture and [AWS Professional Services](#) to deploy [AWS Control Tower](#) and [AWS Identity Center](#). Lowered costs and increased control over account guardrails. Enabled automated provisioning of new accounts, and developed smoke tests as a post-provisioning validation step.
- **Clarity in Complexity:** Collaborated on the deployment of guardrails across all AWS organizational units (OUs). Ensured clarity and traceability of code in a large and complex project. Worked with the team to understand implementation details thoroughly, then developed Lambda functions and CI code to track changes in Git commits to master/main. Created README and Confluence documentation with directed graphs and charts from DOT documents to visually simplify workflows and implementation details.

- **Base AMI program:** Leveraged insights from [Packer](#), [CIS Benchmarks](#), security patching, and the specific needs of internal AMI customers to develop a unified build pipeline integrating best practices. Implemented automatic development builds with unit and integration testing triggered on Git commits, and production builds with comprehensive package indexing on Git tags. Pre-installed and pre-configured agents for metrics and cybersecurity, incorporated automated security analysis scanning, and made Base AMIs available to all ± 200 AWS accounts. Achieved zero downtime across the organization by seamlessly rotating hosts to use the new AMIs. Adopted EC2 Image Builder and automated AMI rotations in the process.
- **Streamlining:** Integrated Terraform, Monitoring-as-Code, Base AMIs, and custom security tooling to empower application teams. Enabled deployment of Docker images with minimal configuration to Amazon ECS clusters, incorporating best practices, infrastructure monitoring, and operational tooling. Reduced overall costs by streamlining deployment processes.
- **Preventative automation:** Conducted comprehensive scans of Route 53 and other DNS providers to obtain a mapping of thousands of active websites. Developed and leveraged highly concurrent, scalable bots to fetch certificate data from each endpoint. Enabled faster rotation of expiring datacenter certificates by identifying both the certificates and their installation locations. Verified required DNS records for self-rotating *Amazon Certificate Manager* certificates.
- **Prism:** Developed custom security and operational tooling where off-the-shelf tools wouldn't give us what we needed. Solution involved highly concurrent and dynamically-scalable nodes that would scan the AWS APIs to understand the current posture of ±200 AWS accounts. Made the data transparent to ALL engineers, enabling teams to be involved in improving their infrastructure stacks.
- **Self-hosted GitHub Actions runners:** Implemented Amazon EKS to deploy self-hosted runners for GitHub Actions within our GitHub Enterprise environment. Developed hourly smoke tests to validate the GitHub Actions runner environment and the imported actions for internal developers. Enhanced visibility and provided working examples to effectively leverage actions, improving overall developer efficiency.
- **Automation for Artifactory:** Rebuilt our Artifactory cluster with a "cattle, not pets" approach. Dedicated Base AMI, rotated monthly. Migrated artifacts from NFS to S3, which significantly lowered costs. Rewrote configurations using Terraform to eliminate manual configurations. Moved service-user management into Terraform. This automation reduced human error, improved security posture, and increased consistency, leading to a better developer experience.
- **Custom Packages:** Streamlined the developer experience by consolidating all disparate Amazon ECR Docker image repositories into Artifactory. Reduced build times for virtual machines and Docker images by identifying commonly installed software and packaging them as pre-compiled `.rpm`, `.deb`, and `.apk` (Alpine Linux) packages. Enabled installation via the system's built-in package management system using Artifactory, resulting in faster, more reliable builds and mitigating issues like the ["left-pad" problem](#).
- **Token Vending Machine:** Developed a Token Vending Machine to enable continuous token and password rotation for our engineering teams, providing a "push-button, receive-token" solution. Leveraged AWS Secrets Manager, Lambda, KMS, IAM policies, and custom CLI software written in Go. Implemented the initial integration for service accounts in Artifactory.
- **ARM64 Adoption:** Anticipated the significance of ARM64 architecture following Apple's announcement of ARM64-based Apple silicon Macs in November 2020. Proactively addressed dependencies on Intel x86_64 by updating custom package build pipelines for ARM64 compatibility. Implemented ARM64 runners for GitHub Actions and established ARM64 parity in Artifactory for remote repositories. Authored tutorials and hands-on documentation for utilizing Docker BuildKit to produce multi-platform container images. Prepared the organization for the adoption of AWS Graviton (ARM64) CPUs for cost optimization, ensuring all components were in place for seamless integration. This initiative also resolved issues faced by multi-platform development teams using both Intel Macs and Apple silicon Macs.

Engineering Manager, Site Reliability (October 2018—June 2020)

Owned and served as the key decision-maker in [development of a core platform](#) for company-wide, reliability-focused projects. As development teams transitioned to [Full-Cycle Development](#), led the Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) team in addressing macro-oriented problems affecting over 75 decentralized, heterogeneous engineering teams across the company. These initiatives empowered greater self-service for engineering teams, enabling them to move faster without reinventing the wheel.

- **Managing humans:** Managed a team of four — one full-time and three contractors. Unfortunately, the team was spread thinly, and I also had to pick-up several hands-on engineering tasks to keep up with our workload. Ultimately, I was pulled back into engineering in my subsequent role because there was a greater need for me there.
- **ECS-optimized Amazon Linux Base AMI:** Customized the AWS-provided AMIs to comply with Level-2 CIS Guidelines for both Amazon Linux and Docker. Collaborated closely with cybersecurity, operations, and various business units to ensure compliance. Achieved high levels of opt-in adoption, enhancing confidence among cybersecurity and operations organizations in the product development teams.

- **Prism:** Developed an executive dashboard that significantly enhanced visibility into the security and operational configurations of our hundreds of AWS accounts. Provided access to Engineering Managers, Directors, VPs, and the CTO, while supplying clear instructions to application engineers on identifying configuration issues and steps for resolution.
- **Monitoring-as-Code:** Leveraged Terraform and Python to streamline the generation and maintenance of dashboards and monitors in Datadog and New Relic across a large, heterogeneous range of applications. Trained development teams to adopt full-cycle development practices, enabling them to own day-to-day operations of their services, including deployments, support, and on-call rotations.
- Formed and led a leadership group to establish a rigorous process for developing, patching, distributing, and maintaining reusable **Terraform modules** utilized by numerous product development teams across the company. Standardized development, contribution, and usage guidelines, adopted an Apache-style "incubator" model for new module development, and implemented a process for releasing Long-Term Support (LTS) sets of modules.
- Assumed engineering management responsibilities for the Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) group in McGraw Hill's Seattle office. Led initiatives to better integrate our office with the expanding SRE practice across all U.S. locations. Joined the SRE leadership group to guide and participate in developing improved reliability processes, collaborating with product development teams to adopt and implement these practices.
- Revamped the Seattle SRE **interview process** to prioritize the recruitment of high-quality engineers with a 70/30 focus on software engineering (Dev) and systems operations (Ops), emphasizing strong leadership qualities. Integrated numerous ideas and leadership principles from experience at AWS to enhance the recruitment strategy.
- Implemented a more collaborative [SRE-style](#) approach by closely integrating with development teams, effectively minimizing the practice of siloed hand-offs to operations teams. This initiative enhanced cooperation and efficiency within the areas supported by the Seattle SRE team.

Staff Software Engineer (October 2016—October 2018)

Led the development of multiple Tier-1 services within the educational content authoring pipeline, leveraging technologies such as REST, GraphQL, API design, Amazon ECS, Docker, Terraform, ePubs, and security best practices. Provided the technical direction of these projects, promoted their adoption across the organization, provided comprehensive documentation, and offered ongoing guidance on adoption.

- Lead the development of the authoring component of [McGraw Hill's SmartBook 2.0 product](#), and the internal system which indexes authored content, builds ePubs, and encodes images/video for McGraw Hill's ePub CDN.
- Initiated the adoption of continuous integration (CI), continuous delivery (CD), rapid deployment practices, and Docker containers. Championed "dogfooding" of new processes, resulting in deployments that were both more frequent and more reliable.
- Introduced a more hands-on monitoring approach, enabling development teams to actively engage in their own operations rather than relying solely on third-party vendors used by other groups in the company. Achieved significantly lower Mean Time to Recovery (MTTR) during incidents by implementing application-level metrics tracking and introducing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Served as a core team member in migrating all new infrastructure to Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC) tools such as Terraform and Packer. Identified patterns across applications and initiated efforts to streamline infrastructure maintenance using shared, reusable Terraform modules.

Perimeter of Wisdom, LLC

Co-Owner, CTO, Producer (February 2015—2018)

Developed the entire website for "The First-Time Offender's Guide to Freedom," managing all technical aspects from inception to deployment. Also performed all production work on the eBook authored by E. M. Baird.

- Utilized then-modern front-end technologies — including [Bootstrap](#), [LESS](#), JavaScript, [Gulp.js](#), npm, and [Bower](#) — to build the website's front end. Developed the back end using PHP 5.6 with [HHVM](#) and [Nginx](#), integrating MySQL, [Redis](#), [Slim Framework](#), [Monolog](#), [Pimple](#), [Twig](#), [Guzzle](#), [Doctrine](#), [Phinx](#), and [Symfony components](#). Deployed the application using [Ansible](#) and developed within a [Vagrant](#) environment running Ubuntu.
- Conducted unit, integration, and functional testing using [PHPUnit](#), [Behat](#), [Mink](#), and [Selenium](#). Leveraged Amazon SES for email delivery, Amazon S3 for static file storage, Stripe for payment processing, Linode for web hosting, and MaxMind for IP-based geolocation. Integrated Google Books and Dropbox to ensure customers always had access to the latest errata fixes.

[WePay](#) — Redwood City, CA

DevOps Engineer (April 2015—September 2016)

- Enhanced WePay's cloud infrastructure provisioning by optimizing update deployment processes and managing security patches. Improved application and infrastructure monitoring. Streamlined the planning, development, deployment, and maintenance of new microservices throughout the company.
- Led a cross-company initiative to upgrade the monolithic application's software stack from PHP 5.4 to PHP 5.6. Facilitated cross-team collaboration among all major engineering teams and QA departments. Managed the replacement of over 200 servers across multiple environments, achieving zero customer-facing downtime.
- Maintainer of multiple tier-1 systems including Artifactory, GitHub Enterprise, and [Phabricator](#).

Senior API Engineer (April 2014—April 2015)

- Developed new API endpoints to help expand WePay's business and support its partners.
- Was instrumental in designing/developing WePay's MFA-as-a-Service offering. (U.S. Patent filing US15042104 ["System and Methods for User Authentication across Multiple Domains"](#).)
- Enhanced the security of WePay's products by coordinating fixes with cross-functional teams while managing competing priorities. Personally resolved numerous issues to ensure product integrity and protect customer data.

[Amazon](#) — Seattle, WA

Web Development Engineer II, Amazon Web Services (March 2010—April 2014)

- Hired by Amazon to work on the [AWS SDK for PHP](#) after they hard-forked my open-source CloudFusion project. Invested heavily in supporting developers by actively listening to their needs, engaging with the community, and representing AWS in PHP-related industry groups.
- Collaborated with the [AWS Elastic Beanstalk](#) team to provide PHP support for the platform, which launched in March 2012. Worked closely with the PHP community to determine a PHP container configuration that would accommodate the needs of the broadest range of developers. Developed a rigorous internal test suite for testing containers, which became the foundation for testing by other language-specific teams. Contributed early input on adding support for git push deployments.
- Played a key role in the creation and development of the [AWS SDK for PHP v2](#), incorporating significant changes in the PHP language and community since CloudFusion was first written in 2005. Contributed to the successful launch of the new SDK in November 2012.
- Collaborated with the AWS Design team on the [AWS Management Console](#), leveraging experience as a web developer and software engineer to bridge the gap between design and engineering disciplines. Contributed to building a high-quality, robust, and user-friendly console for interacting with Amazon Web Services.

CloudFusion (née Tarzan) — Open-Source Project

Creator and Developer (Early 2005—March 2010)

- Developed CloudFusion, a fast and powerful PHP toolkit for rapidly building cloud-based web applications. Prioritized design decisions that enhanced performance, ease of use, and overall usability. Aimed to provide a high-performance developer toolkit for leveraging Amazon's cloud infrastructure, fostering community growth, and building useful, user-centric applications based on the toolkit.
- Amazon Web Services hired me and hard-forked this project in 2010. It became the AWS SDK for PHP.

Rearden Commerce (now [Deem](#)) — Foster City, CA

Senior User Experience Developer (July 2008—March 2010)

- Supported the *User Experience* team, Java developers, and widget development teams by prototyping new features and integrating them into existing systems.
- Migrated JavaScript code from older frameworks to the [Yahoo! User Interface Library](#) (YUI), enhancing codebase maintainability.
- Educated teams on the value of high-quality front-end code, placing a strong emphasis on writing code with better performance, faster load times, and improved accessibility across all projects.

[WarpShare](#) — Morgan Hill, CA

Co-Founder and Chief Information Officer (September 2006—March 2010)

WarpShare worked to bridge the gap between digital piracy and the economic models of RIAA and MPAA industry groups. Aimed to support musical artists and copyright holders by exploring innovative ways to derive value *from* piracy. Recognized that piracy could not be entirely eliminated and analyzed the shortcomings of traditional anti-piracy efforts by the MPAA and RIAA.

Some things which happened later that either proved our premises true or false:

- Developed CleerPeer, an efficient peer-to-peer (P2P) protocol, which improved upon the performance and efficiency of existing protocols like BitTorrent. Addressed and solved multiple performance and efficiency issues present in the original [BitTorrent protocol](#). (U.S. Patent filing US8103870B2 "[Hive-based Peer-to-Peer Network](#)".)
- Contributed to early concepts in peer-to-peer (P2P) digital content delivery with CleerPeer (c. 2007). These ideas have since been realized in technologies like [IPFS](#), which empowers P2P-based distribution of digital content.
- Researched machine learning-powered content identification methods (c. 2007), which have since been successfully adopted by companies such as YouTube.
- Designed a [social network focused around digital media](#), incorporating gamification elements to enhance tagging and content improvement over automated data sources. Recognized that users enjoy keeping track of music, movies, and TV shows, discovering similar content, and sharing with friends. Drew inspiration from platforms like GetGlue (acquired by Yahoo), Letterboxd, IMDb, Trakt.tv, and Plex to create an engaging and interactive user experience.
- Pioneered an innovative business model (c. 2008) enabling users and brands to support and sponsor content through interactive advertising integrated into the media experience (e.g., content-targeted advertising, a smarter version of *sponsorships*).
 - Designed ads to be *part of the content*, avoiding *interruptions* common with pre-roll and mid-roll ads used by platforms like YouTube at the time. (Apple pursued similar advertising concepts with their [iAd service](#) (2010), aiming to transform advertising into an experiential medium.)
 - Brands sponsored downloads by paying 99¢ per song, held in escrow for the benefit of copyright owners (or donated to charity) in exchange for social engagement, offering an ethical approach to digital content monetization via "piracy". (For end-users, it is similar to *sponsorships* of today.)
 - [Readability](#) (c. 2009) implemented a similar business model for written content (e.g., blogs), but kept any unclaimed funds. Public backlash led to them shutting down in 2016.
 - We didn't foresee the shift from piracy to streaming services like Pandora, Spotify, and Netflix.
- Failed because: team was too small; team lacked the required expertise in advertising; team lacked the required expertise in machine learning; funding dried up as the US entered the *credit crisis* from 2007–2009; tried to do too much up-front; early mistakes spending money on *starting a company* instead of developing a consumer product.

[SimplePie](#) — Open-Source Project

Creator and Co-Developer (July 2004—October 2009), contributor (ongoing)

- Ryan is the creator, evangelist, and co-developer of the SimplePie project — a PHP library that enables web developers to simply and easily integrate news feeds into their websites and web applications.
- After recruiting additional development resources in June 2005, Ryan began to shift from a primarily development-focused role to a primarily people-focused role, where he currently works to ensure that people are aware of, and can easily use SimplePie through support, documentation, tutorials, plugins, and evangelism.
- SimplePie was integrated into WordPress, Drupal, MODx, and several other large projects written in PHP. If you've ever used WordPress since 2006, you've used SimplePie with or without knowing it.

[Yahoo!](#) — Sunnyvale, CA

Front-end Developer (Contract), Yahoo! Messenger (November 2007—January 2008)

- Lead the front-end development of the Spring 2008 re-launch of the Yahoo! Messenger website. He collaborated with a core team of developers to provide increased usability, accessibility, organic search engine optimization (SEO), and simplified maintenance, resulting in exceptionally tuned performance for 29 locales.

- Involved in tuning the front-end stack for performance, where they employed semantically valid HTML/CSS, caching, gzipping, image spriting, code minification, and reduced HTTP requests, resulting in exceptional performance.

Stryker — San Jose, CA

User Interface Developer (Contract; May 2005—September 2006)

- Core member of the team tasked with re-building the company intranet site around Oracle Portal. His time was spent writing and discussing functional and technical documentation, conducting usability interviews, and creating a fresh UI that employed user-centered design principles, web standards, and fancy new AJAX tech.
- Member of the Endora Marketing Team, which was geared towards spreading information about the company's move to Oracle's ERP software. In that capacity, Ryan maintained the Endora website, wrote numerous articles for the monthly newsletter, interviewed project leads, and created fun little ERP-related polls to help drive interest in the project (essentially internal marketing).
- Worked with the eBusiness team to improve maintenance and development for the UI of the GlobalSource project. He also re-engineered the Stryker Endoscopy public site to follow modern web standards, and built a PHP-based templating system for the site that significantly sped up development.

Digital Impact (now part of Axcion) — San Mateo, CA

Production Specialist (March 2004—April 2005)

- Coordinated with Campaign Managers on email campaign integration, with responsibility for email content and change requests, and ensuring that the content format was consistent with client requirements. He performed the quality tracking and reporting of campaign integration-related metrics, and consulted and troubleshooted on text and HTML templates.
- Maintained HTML code guidelines, provided optimal design and processing, and provided suggestions for strategic and process improvements. He also acted as syndication expert for the internal RSS development team.
- Client experience included Banana Republic, SBC (now AT&T), Hewlett Packard (HP), Sony Style, Lexus, MAC Make-up.

Recommendations

A full list of recommendations can be found on my [LinkedIn profile](#). Here are a few of my favorites.

Chinmay Tripathi

Sr. Director of Engineering, McGraw Hill

I had the pleasure of working with Ryan and managing him directly, and I can confidently say he's one of the most talented and adaptable engineers I've come across. His technical skills are truly impressive. Whether it's tackling complex challenges, designing smart solutions, or digging into the details of a project, Ryan consistently delivers top-notch results.

What really makes Ryan stand out isn't just his technical abilities, but how easily he collaborates with others, mentors his teammates, and handles problems with a calm, practical approach. He brings a unique mix of creativity, precision, and strategic thinking that helps him approach every project with efficiency and finesse.

In every project we worked on together, Ryan showed a knack for thinking outside the box while still staying grounded in solid engineering practices. His strong work ethic, passion for innovation, and constant drive to push the envelope make him an invaluable team member.

Stephanie Lignelli (Curatola), CISSP

Senior Cybersecurity Engineer, McGraw Hill

I had the pleasure of working with Ryan at McGraw Hill, where he demonstrated exceptional skills in ensuring the reliability, scalability, and efficiency of our IT infrastructure in the AWS cloud. I highly recommend him as he has a deep understanding of Security and has a proactive approach to identifying potential issues before they impact the user experience, this has been invaluable to the team.

Kevin Mesia

Lead Full Stack Engineer, McGraw-Hill

Ryan is an exceptionally talented engineer and an influential leader. He is one of those rare software professionals with an insatiable drive to invent, not just write code.

I've seen Ryan do everything from introducing countless proofs of concept that push organizations toward early adoption, driving industry competitiveness, to mentoring junior engineers on the simplest development tasks.

Miroslav Ladan

Sr. Director of Software Engineering, McGraw Hill

Ryan, you are [...] what I call "renaissance engineer", the kind whose interests extend beyond their role and who want to understand and be involved in every part of the engineering spectrum. You challenge my thinking on an ongoing basis, you inform my strategies and you craft solutions that can be used beyond the [team's] field of responsibility. [...]

You don't pull solutions out of your back pocket, but you look at data and let data inform your decisions. [...] Also, you've shown flexibility and changed direction when needed. You and I mostly agree [about a topic]. You have demonstrated willingness to help in such cases.

As grateful as I am for the previous year, I am even more excited about the year to come. You have a great foundation to build on. [...] I'd like you to be in the business of making others motivated to continue learning and do great work.

Will Curran

Head of Developer Metrics and Insights, Google Cloud Platform

"Ryan is one of the most customer focused individuals I have worked with. He takes great pride in his work and is constantly evaluating how to improve the end user experience. He backs his opinions with customer feedback and data, and I often relied on Ryan to help me deliver a better experience to user, in a short period of time."

Brendan Dixon

Software Development Manager, formerly Amazon Web Services, Microsoft

"What I appreciate about Ryan is his obsession to detail and customers. Ryan refuses to let business politics to ever interfere with doing what is best for customers. He invests himself to discover the best solutions and then make them available. I wholly trust Ryan's evaluation of front-end engineers and Information Architecture. Ryan would make a solid contribution to any team requiring solid front-end skills blended with a deep customer concern."

Adrien Cahen

Full-stack Javascript Engineer, Airbnb, formerly Yahoo!, Twitter

"Ryan is a rock star. Through his work on SimplePie, he has a healthy understanding of PHP and server-side concerns. He is extremely proficient in all aspects of modern web development [...]. He is aware and respectful of standards-body recommendations, but he knows that in the end, user satisfaction (as opposed to developer comfort) is most important. [...] [Ryan managed] to go above and beyond the call of duty by proposing and implementing creative solutions to the hurdles that appeared along the way."

Brian Emmett

Software Engineering Manager, Google, formerly Apple, Netflix

"What has always impressed me about Ryan was his internal motivation for continual improvement. Whether it's creating software in his spare time or researching and implementing bleeding-edge UI techniques, I've always admired his drive. Coupled with a rich technical acumen and superior interpersonal skills, it was always a pleasure to work with him [...]."

Groups & Accomplishments

- Voting Representative for AWS, [PHP Framework Interoperability Group](#) (2012–2013)
- U.S. Patent filing, ["Hive-based Peer-to-Peer Network"](#) (US8103870B2)
- U.S. Patent filing, ["System and Methods for User Authentication across Multiple Domains"](#) (US15042104)

Education

Silicon Valley College (now [Carrington College](#)) — San Jose, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Design and Visualization (November 2003)

- GPA: 3.84