Ben Lovell
Software Developer

Hi, I'm Ben, an experienced Senior Software Engineer with a **proven track record** of delivering **high impact projects**, enhancing workflows, and **fostering technical expertise** in fast paced software development environments.

I'm currently looking for backend and fullstack roles where I can drive architectural decisions.

Links

Email	ben@lovell.io	Bluesky	@ben.lovell.io
Website	https://ben.lovell.io	Mastodon	@socksy@toot.cat
Github	socksy	LinkedIn	benjlovell

Skills

Fluent
- Clojure & ClojureScript
- Python
- Backend Architecture
- Dev Tooling
- PostgreSQL
- Infrastructure
- Data Intensive engineering
- Microservice design (REST + async)
- CI/CD

Proficient
- Infrastructure as code
- Ruby (+ Ruby on Rails)
- TypeScript/JavaScript
- React
- Nix
- Docker
- Cassandra
- Kafka

Familiar
- Scala
- Go
- Rust
- HTML/CSS
- Kubernetes
- MongoDB
- Compilers/Parsers

Experience

Freelancer & Open Source -
Self Employment   *Berlin, Germany*

After taking some time off decided to better my personal technical knowledge in key areas, give back to Open Source projects I use every day, and from November successfully applied for the German government Gründungzuschuss (startup grant) to be able to work for myself

- **developed** a workflow tool in Clojure for dealing with incident management
- **created** a TUI library for babashka and Clojure
- **contributed** new package for NixOS
- **started** to rewrite workflow tool in Rust
- **learned** LLM internals and embeddings, with emphasis on Python usage and Ollama
- **automated** website/blog deployment for personal website and https://clojure.berlin

> ## Tech Stack
>
> **Clojure** (/ Babashka)
> **Rust**
> **Terraform & Hetzner**
> **Typst**
> **Python** (with Transformers, langchain)

Senior Software Engineer -
Pitch Software GmbH   *Berlin, Germany*

Contributed to the development of Pitch's backend and frontend systems, working over 4 different product areas and ending up specializing in the offline-first sync system. Some of the stuff I worked on:

- **introduced** a reproducible development environment and tooling, improving workflows and productivity across engineering team using a combination of nix, docker, bash and Python
- **led** a cross-team documentation working group, making technical onboarding smoother and improving internal knowledge sharing
- **took** initiative to fix many frontend (CLJS/React) and backend (CLJ/Postgres) problems, gaining buy-in from leadership with cost/benefit analyses
- **designed** and implemented improvements to the core sync system to address data loss and developer productivity issues in the offline first functionality, working with senior leadership on a long-term roadmap
- **mentored** junior engineers, guiding them through their first feature implementations and fostering technical growth

> ## Tech Stack
>
> **Clojure & ClojureScript** (fullstack, isomorphic)
> **PostgreSQL** (optimizing, deploying, queries with hugsql, tests)
> **Docker/Compose** (local devstack, AWS Lambda deploys)
> **AWS** (Cloudformation, CloudFront, Lambda, EC2, EB, ECS, Fargate, API Gateway, S3, SQS)
> **HTML/CSS** (Stylus, Hiccup)
> **TypeScript** (esp. with CDK)
> **CI/CD** (Travis, CircleCI, lots of YAML)
> **Bash** (developer UX)
> **Python** (less hacky developer UX)
> **Nix** (reproducible environments, flakes)
> **React/Reframe** (cljs alt to redux, also hooks/functional components)

December 2019
↑
March 2017

Backend Data Engineer -
Geeny/Telefonicá Next GmbH   *Berlin, Germany*

Hired as part of the full time expansion of the Geeny IoT Cloud platform from Telefonicá Next GmbH, in order to build a data privacy first IoT solution I've:

- **architected** a microservices infrastructure on AWS with Docker, Kafka and HTTP/JSON
- **analysed** and translated product requirements into technical implementations
- **delivered** 3 crucial Clojure services under a month-long time constraint
- **led** the effort to have a 15-repo continuous integration and deployment process with GitLab CI/CD, reducing the release cycle from weeks to minutes

Tech Stack

Scala
Clojure
JavaScript
Java
Kafka
Postgres
Docker, Docker Swarm
AWS, Google Cloud
MongoDB
Kubernetes
GitLab CI
Protobufs
Microservice design

February 2017
↑
April 2015

Software Engineer -
Red Pineapple Media GmbH   *Berlin, Germany*

I was brought on to help the urgent rewrite of the video ad delivery system from PHP using a modern Clojure stack. Working in teams from 2 to 6 people I've:

- **rewritten** business-critical APIs, improving performance and reducing hosting infrastructure costs by 70%
- **developed** the company's Real Time Bidding (RTB) bidder, expanding their reach into a multibillion dollar market
- **played** a key role in system design, partner communication, and architecture decisions

Tech Stack

Clojure
PHP
JavaScript
MySQL
Cassandra
OpenRTB
Gatling
AWS

April 2015
↑
November 2014

Full Stack Developer -
lifelife UG

Berlin, Germany

Created a decoupled separate service to interact with the main Rails application.
Implemented funnel metrics, multiple locale support, and more.

Tech Stack

Ruby on Rails
Sinatra
Cucumber/Gherkin BDD testing
JavaScript
HTML/CSS

August 2013
↑
June 2013

Intern at Change the Market (R&D) -
Skyscanner Ltd

Edinburgh, UK

Built a better R&D frontend interface by writing a small DSL & parser (in JavaScript).

Tech Stack

JavaScript
Parser/Compiler writing
Python

July 2012
↑
June 2012

Research Intern -
University of St Andrews

Created a population simulation tool for demographic and graph db testing.

Tech Stack

Java

Education

2014 ↑ 2010	**University of St Andrews**	*St Andrews, UK*

Heavy practical education with subjects including:

Data Encoding, Artificial Intelligence, Operating Systems, Computer Architecture, Knowledge Discovery and Datamining, Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI)

Outside responsibilities

Present
↑
October 2016

Co-Organizer -
Clojure Berlin Meetup   *Berlin, Germany*

Part of a small team taking turns to MC, filling in for lack of speakers, and keeping our 900 member meetup connected

Summer 2017
↑
Summer 2015

Orga Team Member and Coach -
ClojureBridge Berlin

Conducted outreach, triaged attendee invitations, organized catering, etc.