

Sophia van Valkenburg

Full Stack Software Engineer

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CORE SKILLS

Javascript, React, AngularJS, Node.js, HTML, CSS, EJS, Python, MySQL, NoSQL, REST APIs, AWS, Git, technical writing, documentation, Figma, pair programming, automated testing, code reviews, responsive design, deployment & release management, cross-team collaboration, algorithms, data structures.

WORK EXPERIENCE

[SeatGeek](#) • Technical Writer

June 2022 – Feb 2024

- Produced a weekly internal newsletter with an audience of 500+ employees that distilled complex technical concepts into easily understood prose.
- Wrote 100+ articles over the course of 2 years, on average 1500+ words per week.
- Conducted hundreds of interviews with engineers, managers, and directors across product and engineering.
- Newsletter topics included new feature announcements; adoption of third party tools like Kubernetes, Datadog, Optimizely, Mixpanel, etc; retrospectives and post-mortems for major events; and a lot more.

[CBREBuild](#) • Senior Software Developer

May 2017 – Jan 2020

- Developed features for multiple web-based projects at CBRE's real estate tech innovation lab, including a 2D floorplan editor & a real-time interactive 3D virtual tour app. Example features: user actions in the editing tool, 3D object manipulation, admin and customer account UI, tool to adjust white balance of 3D render.
- Built an AR treasure hunt with A-Frame and AR.js for the 2018 NYCxDesign Festival. [Read about it here.](#)
- Technologies included Javascript (mithril.js, AngularJS), Node, CouchDB, Algolia, and WebGL.
- Delivered tech talks on various subjects to enrich the knowledge of the team & mentored junior developers.

[The New York Times](#) • Software Developer

Nov 2014 – April 2017

- Built a data pipeline in Python to convert 160+ years worth of archive data (13 million articles) from multiple legacy formats (XML and HTML) into JSON to import into the modern CMS. [Read about it here.](#)
- Primary owner of a backend API (Python/Flask) that served millions of requests per day.
- Standardized team's process for CI & zero-downtime deployments using Jenkins, Ansible, and AWS.
- Created a web crawler to diagnose SEO deficiencies on nytimes.com with Python, MongoDB, beanstalkd, Flask.

[dMetrics](#) • Software Developer

Sept 2013 – Oct 2014

- Built the client-facing web app. Stack: Python (Django), MySQL, ElasticSearch, Javascript, jQuery, and HTML/CSS.

PERSONAL PROJECTS

[Hiking Trails Tracker](#) • An interactive map of hiking trails with mileage stats, written in React/Typescript and Python for data processing. Deployed using GitHub Actions.

[SophiaCeleste.com](#) • My personal website, built with eleventy.js, EJS, AWS S3, and Git submodule.

[Halloween Haus](#) • A halloween-themed 2D sprite game written in vanilla Javascript and jQuery.

EDUCATION

Computer Science MS & BA • Boston University • GPA 3.9/4.0

graduated May 2013

- Honors: College Prize for Excellence in Computing, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Fine Art & Illustration • Art Students League of NY & Fashion Institute of Technology

2018 – 2021

Mandarin Chinese Language • 10 years of study, including abroad in China.

INTERESTS

Novel writing, drawing, painting, animation, hiking, reading, jump rope, chocolate