

Over the last 11 years, I've done full-stack work, often in a team lead role, and always at startups or internal labs. I thrive on creative ideation; striving for elegant, sustainable code; and serving other developers, business folks, and customers. These foundations have attracted me to: front-end heavy projects that allow me to think creatively and feel like I'm serving customers, API design and implementation projects, and DevOps work that allows me to feel like I'm making solid contributions to enable the daily work of fellow engineers.

To my mind, the best part about engineering is the way that it provides opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a challenging craft.

Skills and Technologies

Front-end: React, Angular, various CSS frameworks

Back-end: Python, Django, Flask, Celery

API design and development: Django Rest Framework, OpenAPI spec

Storage: Postgres, MySQL, Redis, Consul

DevOps: Terraform, Packer, Docker, Google Cloud, Ansible, cloud-init

Leadership: 8 years as team lead, project lead, or senior engineer

Communication: excellent written and verbal communication

Work History

Appsembler: Engineer (Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2016); Sr. Engineer (Aug. 2016 – Feb. 2022); Staff Engineer (Feb., 2022 – current)

Appsembler's mission is to empower trainers and educators to create delightful online learning experiences. We offer a SaaS implementation of Open EdX, which makes it simple to deliver better online learning experiences to employees, customers, partners and students.

I am the engineering lead on our "Virtual Labs" product. This application is a web wrapper around the Docker API that allows our clients to deliver the same development environment to every learner. The learner clicks a button, and we send back a URL to a running container, then manage the lifecycle of that container. We're in the process of redesigning and building the next generation of the product; I'm the technical lead in this process.

The team is small, so my role has been wide-ranging: I touched everything from React to GCP but focused mostly on Python and Django in relation to Docker. I also had other team lead and product responsibilities: held primary responsibility for hiring, managed weekly 1-on-1 meetings with the Virtual Labs team, managed technical relationship with customers, worked closely with the VP Engineering to create and maintain a technical product vision, and played the sales engineering role.

- Led the team through a re-envisioning of the product and technical approach, which was accepted and we are now in the process of implementing
 - I'm currently designing and building the API and VM-creation service
- Promoted, designed, and led a major refactor of the Django application and several smaller refactors; this reduced issues with user experience, reporting, and of course made the codebase easier to manage
- Designed and implemented new API endpoints
- Maintained two JS clients that work with the API (one React, one Vanilla JS)
- Maintained Terraform, Ansible, and Cloud Build code that deploys our application to several customer clusters
 - Moved the process to zero-downtime deployment

- Promoted and enhanced automated testing, having moved the product from ~30% test coverage to ~80%
- Built many Docker images for customer use, and spent extensive time debugging in-container issues, Docker daemon issues, and Python-to-Docker issues
- Promoted, wrote, and maintained documentation
- Primary technical liaison for all AVL customers (up to \$1 mil+ contracts)
- In collaboration with the VP of Engineering, held primary responsibility for product strategy and product management for several years

RxPreferred: Sr. Product Engineer (Mar. 2020 – Sep. 2021)

RxPreferred is a Pharmacy Benefits Management company. In short, the tech applications facilitate transactions between the pharmacy counter and the insurance company. “Senior Product Engineer,” in this case, translates to everything from designing and prototyping web apps to building a CICD pipeline for our on-prem and cloud servers.

I was doing product design and strategy, prototyping, and full-stack development. In large part, I worked to implement new technologies and to scale their usage across the team. This includes moving to a Javascript framework (React), CSS framework, Ansible, GitHub Actions, and Google Compute Engine.

- Designed and wrote multiple prototypes, which included building out front-end tooling and implementing new frameworks and tools (React, Gulp, MD Bootstrap, GitHub actions + Netlify for quick iteration)
- Promoted and started to build a CICD pipeline and cloud infrastructure to move toward continuous delivery, reliable deployments, and cloud hosting (Ansible, GitHub Actions, cloud-init, GCE, Docker)
- Built an API design kit for the team to collaborate across continents

CoUrbanize: Web Application Developer (May 2015 – August 2015)

coUrbanize gives real estate and planning teams a suite of online tools to manage information and communication for a project. Our technology and services are engineered to help project teams increase engagement from a broader audience while saving time and money.

I implemented various backend (Python/Django) features into the platform and designed then implemented new API endpoints as we transitioned from Django Rest Framework 2 to 3.

(I moved to Vancouver in August 2015, so sadly could not continue with the great team at coUrbanize—they did not support remote engineers at the time.)

Startup Institute: Web Developer (Jan. 2012 – Oct. 2012); Lead Web Developer (Oct. 2012 – Mar. 2015)

Startup Institute was an 8-week career accelerator for people interested in joining startups. I lead the development team as we built tools for the marketing team and for students in the program.

In short, I was a full-stack developer, ranging from front to back, including Angular, Python/Django, Django Rest Framework, and Heroku. We built a CRM for student applications, a payment acceptance tool as part of the CRM, a reporting dashboard for student applications, a student yearbook, and an internal social networking and job-sharing application.

- Responsible for setting technical priorities
- Lead all technical architectural design
- Worked closely with co-founders to plan technical strategy
- Worked closely with VP Marketing to implement several iterations of our marketing website
- Build several internal tools using Python/Django, Angular, Django Rest Framework, Heroku, Postgres, Solr

Education

B.S, Finance, Florida Gulf Coast University, Estero, FL (2009)

M.A., Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, B.C. (2019)

- GPA: 3.8
- Board of Governors Prize in Spiritual Theology (highest GPA in Spiritual Theology classes)
- Board of Governors Prize in Doctrinal Theology (highest GPA in Doctrinal Theology classes)