

BLAKE ASTLEY

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

CONTACT

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- Wollongbar, NSW, Australia

SKILLS

- Ruby on Rails
- Redis
- Relational Databases
- SQL
- TDD, RSpec
- Communication and Collaboration
- Other languages including Rust, Python
- Git, Github, Actions
- Docker, Kubernetes, CI / CD

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Computer Science

University of New England

2018 - 2020 (Currently deferred)

I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying, received great grades and have all intentions of picking this back up at some point in the future.

For now however, I find I'm learning more on the job and in the personal work I do.

Higher School Certificate

Ballina High School

Graduated 2010

PROFILE

Motivated Software Engineer with a strong background in full-stack development and 5 years of professional experience.

Having worked in a fast paced environment, delivering integral features with impact, I have gained an outsized amount of experience in Ruby, Rails, Postgres, Sidekiq and everything else that comes along with a large Rails application in a short amount of time. I'm a firm believer that we should be continuously learning and thoroughly enjoy driving technological improvements to meet both user needs and business objectives.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer

Zepto Dec 2023 - Present

Transitioning to a senior role has meant that my responsibilities have also changed to include many new responsibilities including but not limited to:

- Leading a small team of engineers, called a "stream"
- A more formally defined expectation of mentoring and guiding the junior and mid level members within our team. Noting, I had always been proactive in this area but this is now something I am formally expected to continue
- Provide Engineering support and insight to new business initiatives being scoped by the product team

Due to the point in time I joined Zepto and a large amount of personal time, motivation and effort, I was able to gain a deep understanding of our platform and the technologies and frameworks that underpin it. I have worked in almost every part of our codebase and am lucky enough to have been working on one of the companies largest and most innovative products from its inception and am now seen as a domain expert.

The project is our PayTo implementation and has a wide remit. From building out a Ruby on Rails backend that ties in directly with the Australian banking infrastructure and extends PayTo functionality through to our merchants to working directly with the Swift payments infrastructure and the organisations that utilise it.

Software Engineer

Zepto Mar 2022 - Dec 2023

As a Software Engineer, my focus was on the development and maintenance of our Ruby on Rails monolith, CI/CD setup, developer experience improvements and the engineering team itself. I have also had the chance to include some other responsibilities in my day to day work, these include:

- Regularly pairing and mentoring some of the more junior members of our team, helping to understand some core concepts and more often than not, finishing up having learnt a great deal myself.
- Being part of and helping to build the companies first project specific engineering team. This came with some great opportunities to pick on some of the "softer" skills that engineers aren't often able to exercise.

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EXPERTISE

- Strong Ruby knowledge including many of the most widely used gems and frameworks. Rails, Sidekiq, ActiveInteraction, Zeitwerk, RSpec to name a few.
- Test driven design approach starting at the higher level system and integration tests, filtering down to unit level testing where applicable.
- Work very well with other people not only in the engineering team but across all areas of the business.
- Debugging and operating in high pressure, time constricted scenarios, incident management and resolution.
- Extracting key functional and non functional requirements during the exploration phase of a piece of work and working with other teams or users to arrive at the best approach.

REFERENCES

- ✔ Available on request

WORK EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer (cont)

I was also able to use my initiative to introduce some developer experience improvements and push our team to adopt some new ideas that improve our applications maintainability and performance. Some examples of this include:

- Introducing the dry gems to our code base to increase our code reliability and readability
- Off the back of the dry gems addition, implemented a strict param schema that we now use for our external facing API. This includes some nice extras over the standard rails params and validations.
- Implementing the rswag gem and ensuring new request specs use this to give us automatic API documentation. This came with many opportunities to add in RSpec helpers and other gems to ensure our specs are dependable while still being readable.

Junior Software Engineer

Zepto

May 2021 - March 2022

I worked in teams of five or six developers on many different parts of our app, from front and back end to a small amount of devops and setting up one of our first standalone services. All the while continuing to build my programming foundation, honing in on some key development skills and solidifying my understanding of key programming principles.

I got to work on some pretty interesting projects including converting a script I made in my previous role to an AWS lambda, setting up one of Zepto's first standalone services (a rails app) to service a third party, implementing numerous admin and user features and working on the implementation of our PayTo connector, a new payment mechanism within the Australian banking infrastructure.

Support and Integrations Specialist

Zepto

Jan 2020 - May 2021

This was my entry to a technical career and I always had the goal of moving to a Software Engineer throughout my time in this position. I was also studying remotely full time with UNE throughout some of this period.

My role as a support and integrations specialist entailed a large amount amount of customer communication and support whilst our customers were building their integration as well as writing our technical documentation and how to guides.

I also began contributing to our main application during my time in this position. I was lucky enough to join at an early point in time for Zepto and so was also able to help put together internal processes and guidelines to ensure our team worked proactively, efficiently and sustainably throughout a very busy growth period.