

JonRoberts

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN
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(512) 828-7363
github.com/emptyflask
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summary Lead software engineer with 15+ years building Ruby on Rails and, more recently, TypeScript systems. I specialize in search, authentication, and high-traffic event platforms, with Nix at work and at home.

skills	Languages	Ruby, TypeScript, JavaScript, Haskell, SQL, PHP
	Frameworks	Ruby on Rails, Hanami, React, SolidJS
	Search	OpenSearch / Elasticsearch
	Auth	SAML, OAuth2 / PKCE, JWT, SSO, Okta, Doorkeeper
	Data	PostgreSQL, pgvector, Redis, MySQL, CouchDB
	Infra	Nix, Docker, Ansible, AWS, Github Actions
	OS	Linux (NixOS, Debian / Ubuntu, Gentoo), macOS

experience	Mar 2022 – Present	Lead Software Engineer <i>South by Southwest</i> • Technical lead for a team of 6–10 developers. Build reference architecture the team reuses across projects, review pull requests, and mentor less experienced engineers. • Designed a search architecture for the SXSW schedule, using OpenSearch (Elasticsearch) as a read-optimized store for the frontend and Postgres as the normalized source of truth. • Built custom index mappings and denormalized documents across several models, with a presentation layer that shapes results, highlights, and aggregations for faceted search in a React frontend. • Led a phased migration to unified SSO across SXSW's Rails and WordPress properties: Clearance sessions with Redis broadcast, a bridge between the .sxsw.com and .sxswedu.com domains, and OAuth2 / PKCE with JWT for the mobile app. • Rebuilt the attendee recommendations system on pgvector. • Run development workflows in Jira and GitHub, maintain CI pipelines, Docker and Ansible configuration, and Nix dev environments, and handle AWS infrastructure changes. • Building MCP tools that let attendees query the schedule through LLM agents.	Remote
	Mar 2021 – Mar 2022	Senior Software Engineer <i>Proof (formerly Notarize)</i> • Built SAML single sign-on through Okta for internal staff, mapping Okta groups to role-based access control in the app. • Integrated with eOriginal's eVault to securely store the authoritative copies of digitally signed documents. • Built a CLI tool around a Java PDF library for document processing. • Refactored flaky and slow rspec+factorybot tests to improve CI reliability. • Converted / refactored legacy JavaScript to TypeScript. • Migrated application configuration to AWS Parameter Store as part of the move from Heroku to AWS.	Remote

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	Oct 2012 – Mar 2021	Senior Software Engineer <i>South by Southwest</i> - Owned SXSW's core attendee systems: the schedule platform (schedule.sxsw.com), the e-commerce cart and checkout, and the central OAuth / SSO provider used across SXSW's apps. - Built cart checkout, coupon redemption, guest-to-user cart merging, and payment processing with ActiveMerchant, plus a coupon management service and a centralized transaction-logging API for payment gateways. - Built PanelPicker's public voting and scoring system for session proposals, and messaging, badges, and Facebook login for the SXSW social app. - Built on-site registration tools: wristband and badge distribution with registration import and deduplication, FileMaker-integrated artist registration, and a volunteer badge printing app using the Shiftboard API. - Built an image hosting and manipulation service on Thumbor, with client gems that integrated it into SXSW's Rails apps.	Austin, TX
	Sep 2009 – Oct 2012	Independent Contractor <i>Various</i> Built Rails, Drupal, and WordPress projects for clients including SXSW, Dell, UT Austin, Austin Humane Society, and Scott & White.	Austin, TX
	Sep 2008 – Sep 2009	Lead Developer <i>Pixeldust Interactive</i> Built a 12-language, PDF-generating Drupal site for Johnson Controls, plus CakePHP and WordPress sites for other clients.	Austin, TX
	1998 – 2008	Earlier roles Web / UX designer, and CG artist roles in Austin and Indianapolis.	
education	1999 – 2003	BFA in Computer Art <i>Savannah College of Art & Design</i> Studied VFX, compositing, procedural effects, shader programming, design, and a ton of art history.	Savannah, GA
projects	nix-config rails-nix other open-source	Multi-host NixOS flake for my desktops and homelab. Example Rails app using Nix for all dependencies. Contributed to nixpkgs, dry-rb, elasticsearch-rails, xmonad-contrib, fmrest-ruby, etc.	
interests	Functional programming (Haskell, Elixir, Gleam, Elm, Rust*), cooking, gardening, mushroom foraging, guitar (badly), bicycles, photography.		