Aspen Smith she/her

Software Engineer

Skills

- Rust Expertise in high-performance, low latency, low-level systems development with Rust, including everything from fundamental data structure implementation to asynchronous distributed systems development
- Clojure Extensive experience architecting, deploying, and building complex web applications in Clojure and Clojurescript, with a focus on Re-Frame and Reagent. Experience testing distributed systems in Clojure using Jepsen.
- Haskell Passionate love for pure functional programming as a hobbyist pursuit, but also practical experience building production systems in Haskell at scale, and using Haskell's advanced type system extensions where appropriate to deliver increased ergonomics and safety.
 - Nix Experience with adopting and teaching nix at scale in a production stack both for local development dependencies and for configuring and building production software. Core contributer to a fork of the nix implementation itself (tvix) aimed at providing increased safety, performance, and flexibility.
- Unix/Linux Experience with administrating highly available distributed systems. Passion for the Unix philosophy of discrete, composable units of functionality.
 - Ruby Experience building both full-stack applications with Ruby on Rails in addition to smaller microservices and custom frameworks. Deep understanding of the internals of the Ruby interpreter and object system.
- Javascript Experience developing real-time responsive single-page web applications using React, in addition to significant contributions to the React open-source community.
 - SQL Deep understanding of relational databases as an implementer, in the context of an innovative new database implementing a query planner and incremental materialization for the PostgreSQL and MySQL dialects of SQL from the ground up and of course also a user

Additional Tools

 $\circ \ Vim \circ \ Emacs \ (yes, \ also) \circ \ Kubernetes \circ \ Git \circ \ Terraform \circ \ AWS \circ \ GCP \circ \ Datomic \circ \ Elasticsearch \circ \ Redis \circ \ Docker \circ \ Java \circ \ Scala \circ \ QuickCheck \ (and \ similar \ tools) \circ \ Jepsen \circ \ Python \circ \ Elixir$

Novice Level: \circ C++ \circ Erlang \circ Prolog \circ Idris \circ Agda \circ Tensorflow

Experience

2020–2023 Staff Software Engineer, ReadySet, Remote.

Founding engineer at a startup bringing a high performance partially-stateful, incrementally-maintained SQL database based on the Noria thesis to market

- Served as the main technical leadership for the project throughout its maturation from a research codebase to a production-grade system
- Extended the Noria PhD thesis by implementing methods from multiple research papers, masters theses, and other papers from database research, in addition to original database research and development.
- Invented or helped develop multiple novel database techniques in partially materialized dataflow, including index planning and selection, pagination, post-lookup aggregate processing, partial "straddled" joins, weak indexes for correct execution of partial joins, and more.
- o Invented novel ways to test SQL databases, including a new deterministic generator for SQL queries.
- Developed the clustered high availability distributed runtime mode from a buggy research feature into a production ready distributed system that passed a suite of Jepsen tests.
- Implemented a significant fraction of the SQL query planner, which required both implementing algorithms specified in database research papers and inventing new techniques to work around the limitations of partially materialized dataflow
- Optimized critical components of the code base, including algorithmic optimizations, CPU cache analysis, low-level data structures, and broad system runtime analysis
- Implemented a type inference engine and expression evaluator that supported multiple dialects of SQL configured at compile-time, with maximum code reuse while preserving maintainability
- o Mentored multiple junior and senior engineers
- Open-Source contributions visible at https://github.com/readysettech/readyset/commits?author=glittershark

2019–2020 Engineering Manager, Urbint, New York, NY.

- Lead of the platform team with two direct reports a senior SRE and a senior software engineer.
- Performed user research on developers, project managers, product managers, and other internal stakeholders to build the roadmap for the platform team.
- Built and maintained a system to deploy one-off full stack application instances from pull requests to enable easier testing.
- Led a large, multi-project migration between CI systems that resulted in a decrease of average build times from 2 hours to less than 10 minutes.
- Maintained and extended Nix-based build and development infrastructure for both software engineers and machine learning engineers.

2018–2019 **Senior Software Engineer**, *Urbint*, New York, NY.

- o Built, trained, and maintained a large, deep-learning-based image-detection model for semi-automated (human-in-the-loop) video classification.
- o Designed, built, and maintained a novel in-house tool for collection of training data.
- o Maintained and guaranteed reliability of a large data pipeline for video processing and classification.

2017–2018 Senior Software Engineer, Urbint, New York, NY.

- Integral in the architecture of a novel, serializable ACID transactional graph database built on RocksDB, first in Elixir then in Haskell.
- o Helped ship customer deliverables involving multi-day data processing jobs for disparate data sources.
- o Instructed other developers in the use of and theory behind Haskell
- o Brought computational graph theory to bear on the problem of unifying disparate, highly heterogeneous data sources across the world of open data.

2016–2017 Senior Software Engineer, SecurityScorecard, Inc., New York, NY.

Lead frontend developer for a rapidly-moving and growing security software startup.

- Took part in collaborative product design meetings to make UX tradeoffs with product designers and managers.
- o Drove application architecture for a large, complex, data-driven frontend application.
- o Championed increased use of production monitoring and alerting.
- o Worked with business stakeholders to set long- and short-term priorities for application development.
- o Mentored junior team members.

2015–2016 Lead Developer, Nomi, Inc., New York, NY.

Lead web services developer transitioning to a full-stack role implementing shared software components and architecting a large, complex microservices application ingesting hundreds of gigabytes of IoT data per week.

- Lead application architecture of the majority of the backend services to encourage consistent REST API design and code sharing.
- o Championed the use of Haskell for rapid, safe development of the API Gateway service.
- o Took ownership of operations and server maintenance of a >100-instance AWS account using Puppet.

2014–2015 Lead Developer, LandlordsNY, LLC, New York, NY.

Sole engineer for a small startup connecting landlords and property managers and facilitating the online sharing of information in a historically technology-averse industry.

- o Drove product design, visual design, and UX architecture for a major revamping of the core product.
- o Interfaced with customers to set priorities for new feature development.
- o Conducted hiring and recruiting to build out an engineering team.

2012–2014 Associate Developer, Visionlink Inc., Boulder, CO.

Integral member of an agile development team building the nation's most-used Information and Referral platform for organizations such as United Way Worldwide and the American Red Cross.

- o Refactored and revamped legacy code to increase performance and long-term maintainablity.
- O Worked on several triage-teams to rapidly fix production bugs with strict deadlines.
- o Built a complex, yet highly-performant tool for searching human services by category.
- o Acted as a core designer and developer of a major product revamp.
 - Drove a complete rethinking of the data model in the product, leading to greater unification, simplicity, and consistency;
 - Championed the adoption of a test-driven-development model;
 - Drove product documentation and code standardization.

Project Highlights

 How much does Rust's bounds checking actually cost? – https://blog.readyset.io/ hounds-checks/

Blog post providing a deep evaluation of the runtime cost of bounds checking in safe languages like Rust. Front page of Hacker News, doubled month-over-month ReadySet waitlist signups

- Tvix https://tvix. dev
 Modular Reimplementation of the Nix build tool in Rust
- Panettone https://code.tvl.fyi/tree/web/panettone
 Aggressively simple bug-tracker developed in Common Lisp for the community involved in the development of Tvix. Hosted at https://b.tvl.fyi
- Org-Clubhouse https://github.com/glittershark/org-clubhouse
 Emacs library for integration between org-mode and the Clubhouse issue tracker
- **Github Bug Bounty** https://bounty.github.com/researchers/glittershark.html Discovered and responsibly disclosed a persistent XSS on Github's main website
- o **core**-async-storage https://github.com/glittershark/core-async-storage Simple Clojurescript wrapper around React Native's AsyncStorage using core.async