Tomas Valent

Ruby on Rails web-developer and architect

Career History

Pobble.com - London, UK; *Lead backend-developer, DevOps, Architect*   November 2015 - *

Pobble is an ed-tech platform providing a comprehensive toolset to teach, improve and assess writing of children for teachers sharing children's literacy and teaching materials. www.pobble.com

Originally I was hired as a contractor to fix a broken platform. After my contract ended I decided to join the company as a full time remote employee. Over the 7 years I've been at Pobble I've helped them transform the app from a simple literacy sharing platform to full scale toolset for teachers with more than 1.19 million accounts.

Currently the platform is Dockerized Ruby on Rails JSON API Monolith BE with team boundaries organized around Bounded Contexts running under PostgreSQL, ElasticSearch, Redis, platform provisioned on AWS cloud (was fully provisioned on Microsoft Azure for few years). I was in charge of BE development, BE architecture decisions, BE team management DevOps (both BE & FE). FE is made with SPAs maintained by a team of frontend developers.

ComLaude - London, UK; *Lead full-stack web-developer, Architect*   June 2012 - October 2015

ComLaude is a domain name management company which focuses on managing domain name portfolios of large enterprises (such as Amazon, Microsoft, …)

I've joined the the Ruby on Rails developer team that was established to build business specific web-based dashboards as well as gTLD Validation System which was used to validate domain applications for gTLDs like .london, .wales, .brussels, .amsterdam, .tickets ...

As a lead RoR developer of this company I was fully responsible for developing and maintaining all features on all Ruby related projects including: backend/frontend, all architecture decisions, APIs, asset storage solutions, backups, testing, caching, security, deployments, DevOps, database management + certain level of server management and developers management, UX.

LoveThis - London, UK; *Full-stack web-developer*   May 2011 - May 2012

LoveThis was a service which enabled members to share recommendations to their friends using existing social networks, via the web and on an iPhone app. (Project no longer exists)
I was part of a small team of Ruby on Rails developers developing web app FE & BE. My main focus was on a 3rd party API integration (Facebook Graph API) which was one of the core features.

Netina - Prague, Czech Republic; *Full-stack web-developer*   Aug. 2010 - Dec. 2010

Ruby on Rails social-network platform had similar aspects like Facebook, but was focusing only on family members.
I was involved in member connections, messaging, photo albums, chat features. (Project no longer exists)

Arašid s.r.o. - Banska Bystrica, Slovakia; FE & BE *web-developer*   May 2008 - Aug. 2010

Company owned several e-commerce projects (such as progamingshop.sk, mp3.sk, ..) integrated with partner XML APIs. My responsibility was to maintain and develop features (PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, OsCommerce, Linux sys-admin responsibilities)

Allin1.cz - Prague, Czech Republic; *BE web-Developer*   Apr. 2008 - May 2008

Media agency creating custom made websites and CMS (PHP framework CodeIgniter, HTML, CSS)

Skillset

Languages and frameworks:
Ruby, **Ruby on Rails**, Sinatra, some experiences with Elixir and Phoenix Elixir; PHP

Databases:
PostgreSQL, MySQL, **ElasticSearch**, Redis, MongoDB, CosmosDB, DynamoDB

Tests:
TDD, BDD, **RSpec**, MiniTest, Cucumber, Spinach, Selenium, Capybara, Jasmine, Factories & Fixtures. But also experiences with DHH style of developing apps where tests are introduced later. CI setup experiences

API development:
Standard REST JSON API, HATEOAS JSON APIs, query based JSON APIs, some experience with GraphQL

DevOps:
Heroku, AWS (ElasticBeanstalk, EC2, S3, ELB, ECR, Lambda, Amplify, different AWS, DynamoDB, RDS, ElasticSearch) ,Capistrano, Netlify; NginX, Unicorn, Puma; **Docker**, docker-compose; experiences setting up CD/build machines (custom via Jenkins or 3rd party Travis CI, CodeShip); TwelveFactor app principles; vertical scaling, load-balancer setup; Sys-admin exp. (ssl certs, Linux conf …); I also have some experience with Microsoft Azure and Kubernetes

Architectures:
Mighty monolith Rails, BE API monolith Rails (FE SPA / BE API split but also BE API as a service),
Monolith as a hexagonal architecture, Event driven monolith architecture, Microservice architecture and Serverless Architecture, Hybrid architectures

Code design:
I can work on projects with any coding practices: pragmatic ones e.g. Mighty Monolith (as proposed by DHH), DCI paradigm apps, or coding practices focusing on smaller objects like SOLID principles and object decomposition, (e.g service objects, policy objects, entity objects, …; TDD always, OODD). I think it's really all about what style of code the team is comfortable with. As from my side I have a good grasp of multiple coding designs and will respect the one project is following.

Performance optimization:
multiple layer caching (Russian doll caching, model lv. caching), ETag, NewRelic, Benchmarking (global and partial), principle of gradual improvements,...

Team management & productivity:
Agile development methodologies: Scrum, Kanban, Extreme Programming (XP); understanding of agile principles (the original meaning of the word agile); Git flow and Github flow (feature branch flow); Experience with Sync & Async remote work; paircoding, remote pair-coding, BE team management, organization of teams around Bounded Contexts (Monolith or Microservices); Orchestration of separate FE - BE team deliveries;
As for small project I'm familiar with delivering software from architecture use cases or from UX wireframes or from direct client interaction to the end solution

Frontend:
HTML5 standards and HTML semantics, micro-data, SEO, HAML, SLIM; CSS3, mobile website development, responsive designs, SASS; JavaScript, ES6, **StimulusJS**, **Hotwire/Turbo,** Webpack (webpacker gem)**,** CoffeeScript, jQuery, Turbolinks, Unobtrusive JavaScript, Rails RJS/SRJ; Sprockets, Propshaft; Twitter Bootstrap, Zrub Foundation, Materialize css, HTML/Mail boilerplates; I've done UX, wireframing, mockup, web-design in the past.

My coding environment:
Since 2022 M1 Macbook Air + Sublime but I've spent 14 years under Linux Ubuntu + Vim

Free time projects & public code examples

I write web-developer articles on my website https://blog.eq8.eu/article/ as well as quick TIL notes https://blog.eq8.eu/til/ . Many of the articles are quite popular. Peak of my website was in 2018 with more than 13 000 visits in a 30 day period after I've released an article Is Rails still relevant in 2018? Many of the articles were mentioned several times in popular weekly mailing lists like Ruby Weekly.

Sample of my articles: Ruby on Rails - Bounded contexts via interface objects , Ruby Sinatra on AWS Lambda , Ruby #call method , Policy Objects in Ruby on Rails, Pure RSpec JSON API testing

I've done handful of talks on a web-developer lifestyle, web-development architecture and deployment options for Ruby on Rails developers (talks can be found at skillsmatter.com)

I wrote a couple of Ruby Gems with a total of ~1.2 million downloads; I have several dozen Github repositories with helpful projects for other developers.

Some example gems I've created: Pobble/pragmatic_ql, equivalent/copy_carrierwave_file , equivalent/witch_doctor, equivalent/public_uid, equivalent/dude_policy

I've contributed to many Ruby open source projects (list here and on my Github Profile), I'm quite involved in helping on web-developer forums like Stackoverflow (around 13 000 karma, ~1.9m people reached). I've joined a few Ruby on Rails coding competitions (2015 Rails Rumble & 2016 Ruby Rampage). I'm the creator of serverless-ruby.org (petition for bringing Ruby to Serverless world). Created bunch of websites for friend for free (www.zdenka.eu , elkar.sk, bjjnitra.sk,..)

Somewhat full list of contributions can be found at github.com/equivalent/my-web-developer-journal

Personal

Website:	www.eq8.eu
Blogs:	blog.eq8.eu
Code notebook:	github.com/equivalent/scrapbook2
Career profiles	www.linkedin.com/in/tomasvalent
	careers.stackoverflow.com/equivalent
Web profiles:	github.com/equivalent
	stackoverflow.com/users/473040/equivalent8
	twitter.com/equivalent8
	rubygems.org/profiles/equivalent
	hub.docker.com/u/equivalent
Birth:	August 1988, Slovakia (part of EU)
Nationality:	Slovak
Address & location:	Nitra, Slovakia
Language skills:	*Slovak language* (native speaker), *Czech language* (native speaker), *English* (fluent)
Education	2003-2007 *Joseph Murgas High School* (school focusing on Electrical Engineering and Computer Science); Graduated
	2009 - 2012 Social Philosophy at *Matej Bel University* in Banska Bystrica (distance form) Study terminated in 5th term due to work opportunity
Personality traits:	Pragmatic, Productive, Friendly, patient, I like working with people
Hobbies:	Family, inline skates, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, metal music, drums & bass guitar, beer with colleagues
Job preferences:	Full remote, UK or US job market, ideally companies that embrace async communication (sync is fine too), Ruby on Rails focused (ideally BE as an API or Fullstack with Hotwire/Stimulus)