

Ben Kimball

+1 425 900 2920

<https://iam.benkimball.com>

iam@benkimball.com

Summary

Seattle-based software developer generalist with decades of professional experience. Everything from infra to CSS: Rust, Ruby on Rails, React, TypeScript, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, and Azure. Open to relocation; I speak English and some French.

Experience

March 2024 - present: **Xplore, Lead Software Developer**

Early last year I moved into the space industry as lead software developer at Bellevue-based Xplore, where the software I write and maintain is responsible for everything we do, from radio communication with our orbiting satellite, the data pipeline from space, systems and application layer business logic, our multi-cloud SaaS product, and the infrastructure automation that builds it all. On any given day I will likely build new Rust code to parse byte-level network packets, update Ruby on Rails code in our service offering, tweak a CSS animation to feel "just right," debug an old Node or Go service, support Operations or a customer with a Python integration, and interview candidates for open roles. Toolset highlights include AWS, Azure, Ruby on Rails, Rust, Node.js, Kafka, React, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, Crossplane, Redis, and GraphQL.

April 2019 - December 2023: **Wizards of the Coast, Senior Software Developer**

I moved across the country to join the Core Tabletop team at Wizards of the Coast in Renton, WA in April 2019. I originally developed and supported apps and web sites that are used by players of our most popular games, *Dungeons & Dragons*[™] and *Magic: the Gathering*[™], in dozens of languages all over the world. Toolset included AWS, .Net Core, Kafka, Docker, Vue.js, Node, GraphQL, PostgreSQL and Kubernetes. In summer 2021 I helped found the team working on the next iteration of *Dungeons & Dragons*[™], supporting the game with the design and implementation of backend service and build systems. Toolset expanded to add Unreal Engine, Jenkins, TeamCity, MongoDB, and custom TCP network messaging software.

November 2017 - April 2019: **Kazoo/YouEarnedIt, Senior Software Engineer/Team Lead**

I worked as a full-stack engineer at Kazoo (formerly YouEarnedIt, and now known as WorkTango) on their SaaS employee experience platform. I served as team lead during our GraphQL research and implementation project, with a modest contribution to the graphql-ruby gem. My work focused mostly on the API layer of our platform, and I served on an architectural planning committee responsible for the design of a new integrated platform

after the acquisition of HighGround, a Chicago-based performance management software company. Toolset included: Amazon S3, Aurora, CodeBuild, MongoDB Atlas, GraphQL, React, Rails, Mandrill, Resque, ElasticSearch, Node.

*February 2017 - October 2017: **Borrowed & Blue, Senior Software Engineer***

I worked on the Core Team at Borrowed & Blue, where I was responsible for design and implementation of new features for our apps, along with the usual maintenance tasks. The team of a dozen engineers was entirely remote, and our design process required close collaboration. In October 2017 the company was dissolved. Toolset included: Heroku, Rails, Postgres, Mandrill, S3.

*July 2016 - January 2017: **Liveoak Technologies, Senior Software Engineer.***

As the first technical hire at Liveoak Technologies, my responsibilities included ownership of our primary customer's feature set, including everything from customer communications to feature specification and hands-on implementation in code. The Liveoak product, a financial agreement facilitation tool, was successfully deployed to high-end international banks and insurance customers around the world. In addition I was tasked with recruiting, ensuring code quality across our small team, strategic planning and new projects. Toolset included: Heroku, Rails, WebRTC, web sockets, and the Docusign API.

*July 2012 - July 2016: **Union Metrics, Sr Front End Engineer/Team Lead.***

As an early hire, I focused on the Rails side of our complex social media analytics SaaS application. Tasks included implementation of REST APIs and rapid development of new UI, including extensive visualization and some Java development. In November 2014 my responsibilities expanded to include technical leadership of the front-end team along with continued innovation in user experience and visualization. Toolset included: D3.js, Angular v1, jQuery, Rails, Redis, MongoDB, MySQL, memcache, S3, and OAuth/SSO.

Other Past Positions

Lead Developer, PeopleAdmin. 2010 - 2012. (Rails)

Senior Software Engineer, Crossroads Systems. 2008 - 2010. (Rails)

Education

University of Texas at Austin, Electrical Engineering Honors + Mathematics.

Coursework: Logic, Linear Algebra, Number Theory, Multivariate Calculus, Applied Discrete Math, Probability, and Differential Equations. Computer Science, Mathematical Analysis (Honors), Physics (Honors)

26 March 2025