David Sewell

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Goals

Use my experience and passion for problem solving and learning to create and enable systems that help someone else solve their own problems.

Passions

- Putting a smile on someone's face by making small tools that save time and reduce mistakes
- When all the loose parts of a software system come together
- Unwrapping the layers of a complicated software problem and the moment when you have the perfect solution
- Taking time to make things better: faster, simpler, more elegant

Recent Tech List

JavaScript	TypeScript	Go	AWS
Python	React	CI/CD	Vault
Auth0	Terraform	Node	Ansible

How I Most Enjoy Working

Motivated to learn – New challenges are an opportunity to build and expand my knowledge, giving me new ways to solve the next problem.

Efficient analyzer and problem solver – Intuition and deep knowledge let me create solutions quickly and effectively even in complex domains.

Communicate effectively – Adept at communicating complex solutions to various audiences from internal technical design discussions to customer meetings.

Team-oriented – Strong belief that development is a sport where we all win when we help everyone around us achieve their best outcomes.

Work

Staff Software Developer

Designed and architected systems and processes to help ensure security in product as well as during the development life cycle including replacements for authentication and authorization systems.

- Vault configuration was manually configured and was not FIPS compliant. Designed and implemented a fully terraformed Vault Enterprise system and configuration. Enabled centralized, audited and secure secret storage across the engineering organization.
- A growing suite of customer-facing products all used separate authentication systems, hindering multi-product, customer solutions. Played a major role in replacing authentication with Auth0 and building several complex, internal systems and user-facing interfaces.
- Survey taking system was being deployed as a client-side application requiring anonymous access to data. Designed, implemented and deployed a replacement for our internal authorization system that could enable secure, anonymous access. Enabled engineers to use a single source of authorization across many services to reduce complexity and simplify the transformation to the new system.

Staff Site Reliability Specialist

SurveyMonkey
Apr 2017 – Sep 2019

Worked on a small team doing site reliability, development tools and automation. Provided support to a large engineering organization during a large infrastructure project and in a maintenance capacity.

- Internal infrastructure platform was being replaced with tight deadlines. Empowered the engineering team to build and release microservices on the new platform with velocity and confidence by combining training, support and tooling.
- The suite of services enabling the software development life cycle of the entire engineering team was poorly documented and out of date. Automated deployment of these services to enable reliable tooling so that engineers can focus on solving business problems.

Senior Software Developer

SurveyMonkey
Oct 2015 – Apr 2017

Lead developer on complex and critical systems for delivering emails to customers and asynchronous messages between microservices.

- Email service was tightly coupled to its initial use case of sending survey emails and had bottlenecks during execution. Designed and implemented a general purpose email API and used an asynchronous execution model to account for variability in delivering thousands of emails.
- Worked with security and machine learning teams to combat platform abuse, reduce costs and improve reliability of the internal email system.

Contract Software Developer

Designed and implemented an invoice and customer management system to help automate and consolidate business tasks. Allowed the proprietor to manage software releases, sales and licensing and avoid hiring staff.

Senior Software Developer

Worked with a small team in a startup environment building a Ruby on Rails application for managing field service data. Used rapid iteration and feedback from stakeholders and industry experts to constantly improve the product.

Senior Software Developer

Key developer in R&D organization working to maintain and improve a large legacy web application as a full stack developer. Continually improved processes and software development techniques which were adopted across the engineering team. Solving high-visibility and critical customer issues leading customers' success with our software.

Software Developer

Support specialist role fixing high-priority bugs and implementing performance improvements. Creating reliable and performant software features improved the success of the product with existing and future customers.

Education

Carleton University

Honours Bachelor of Computer Science, Software and Computing,
    Co-operative Option, Minor in Mathematics