Abby Sassel

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TL;DR

I lead Product Engineering teams that test thoroughly, fail fast and ship reliably. My ideal role is within an intentional, mission-driven and user-focused product company. I strive to learn continuously and lead by example to nurture a healthy, high-performing engineering culture.

Technologies   Haskell, Clojure, PureScript, SQL, JavaScript (React, Node.js), Ruby-on-Rails, HTML, CSS.

Work

Hasura
Remote

Technical Lead & Senior Software Engineer   *Feb 2021 to Jan 2023*

Led delivery of an open-source, high-performance engine for creating secure GraphQL APIs from databases.

- Led a remote team of 7 Senior Engineers to extend product capabilities for new database backends. This is a central part of the business's product offering, resulting in a 10% month-on-month increase in adoption.
- Designed, implemented and demoed highly-anticipated feature sets to 300,000 monthly active users of the most popular open-source Haskell project on GitHub.
- Redesigned and replaced a test suite that could not evolve with product testing needs. The new suite runs up to 10x faster, is easier to maintain and enables new testing capabilities for the entire engineering team.
- Established engineering practices that reduced change lead time by two-thirds, increased throughput by a third and doubled deployment frequency.
- Introduced feature management practices that radically improve release reliability. Subsequently released features have had fewer change failures and a shorter time-to-value for customers.
- Technologies   Haskell, PostgreSQL, BigQuery, Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, Python, Docker.

CollegeVine
Remote

Software Engineer   *Nov 2018 to Jan 2021*

Developed a free US college admissions guidance platform serving 50,000 monthly active users.

- Introduced core product features like college recommendations, shortlist editor, essay submission and peer review.
- Instrumented product experiments to gather fast, quantitative feedback and achieve product-market fit during a product pivot.
- Identified and fixed the top pain points for internal customers, including page latency, app-wide search and client-matching automation. This improved core customer service KPIs such as average resolution time.
- Ran an internal Site Reliability Engineering training session to improve incident management practices.
- Mentored a Junior Developer in Haskell and associated tools to improve their effectiveness and team performance.
- Technologies   Haskell, PureScript (Elmish), Ruby-on-Rails, PostgreSQL, AWS.

Standard Chartered Bank
London, UK

Platform Engineer   *May 2017 to May 2018*

Set up continuous integration and deployment infrastructure for a large team of quantitative developers.

- Surfaced data such as test status, logs and queue in a clean interface using PureScript/Halogen.
- Established a culture of more frequent, deterministic testing, incremental improvement, feature branch workflow and fast feedback.
- Technologies   Haskell, PureScript, Jenkins, Ansible, ElasticSearch, PostgreSQL, VirtualBox.

London, UK

Condé Nast Commerce

Software Engineer *Aug 2015 to May 2017*

Built a luxury greenfield e-commerce product to 100,000s of users as part of agile, cross-functional teams.

- Halved site-wide page load time by replacing the ClojureScript framework wholesale.
- Enabled product teams to edit site content efficiently with a bespoke no-code Content Management System, featuring content and product tagging and metadata customisation.
- Fixed critical payment and authentication bugs pre- and post-launch.
- `Technologies` Clojure, ClojureScript, Datomic, HTML, CSS (Sass), JavaScript (React), ElasticSearch, Docker.

Bright North London, UK

Software Engineer *Feb to Aug 2015*

Delivered e-commerce product feed technology in a team of full-stack developers.

- Implemented new features such as product feed output formatting, image identification and optimisation, web scraper and product categorisation in Clojure.
- Maintained and improved the company website built in HTML and JavaScript.
- `Technologies` Clojure, ClojureScript, HTML, CSS, JavaScript (Node.js), MySQL, ElasticSearch, AWS.

Volunteering

Coding Black Females *Feb 2021 to present*

Mentor entry-level to senior Software Engineers, either on an ongoing basis or throughout technical bootcamps and scholarship programs.

Code Club *Apr 2017 to Sept 2021*

Designed and ran weekly code club sessions teaching core programming concepts and multiple languages to 8-12 year-olds. Parents gave feedback that the online sessions provided stability, fun and learning for their children during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

ClojureBridge — International Board *Jan 2016 to Aug 2019*

Operationalised the delivery of free Clojure workshops and mentoring for women worldwide.

Education

Birkbeck College, University of London *Oct 2012 to Jul 2016*

Bachelor of Computing

Achieved a first-class honours degree whilst working full-time.

Modules included Object-Oriented Programming (Java), Programming Paradigms (Haskell, Prolog, Scala, Racket), Data Structures & Algorithms, Information Security, Intelligent Technologies (MATLAB), Database Management (SQL), Web Authoring (HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript) and Computer Networking (TCP/IP).