

# Caleb Simpson

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## SKILLS & INTERESTS

I have over 10 years experience working in high performance software environments, particularly with web technologies such as Ruby on Rails, Typescript, GraphQL, Postgres, MySQL, Redis, Vitesse, GKE/AWS, and others. I have a keen interest in solving technical problems using simple, performant solutions, and engaging cross-discipline to prevent unnecessary code from being written in the first place. I really enjoy, and have the ability to, learn new technologies quickly, especially when they unlock the ability to solve new engineering problems. Lately I've been experimenting with LLMs, Bun, and Nostr.

## EXPERIENCE

### Playbook — Senior Software Engineer

### Playbook

Aug 2023 – Aug 2024 (1 yr)

*Playbook is a fintech startup focused on providing users with a personalized financial plan, and making it simple to execute on. The product allows users to open various investing accounts, strategize how to invest in these accounts, and automate the transfers and purchase of assets.*

- Engaged across all disciplines (product, operations, design, engineering) to roadmap, prioritize, design, implement, and ship weekly. During my first year, I directly championed the design, timeline, and execution of over 8 projects, while contributing code & review to other projects in parallel.
- Designed and built an ACATS transfer feature, enabling users to onboard millions of dollars to Playbook IRA accounts without incurring taxes, by integrating the Typescript backend with 3rd party REST APIs while maintaining safety around sensitive PII data.
- Overhauled the pricing system to dramatically increase the flexibility & simplicity of experimenting and shipping new features to the product, by simplifying the data model and migrating users while maintaining uptime.
- Built a developer tool to reliably reproduce CI test failure on a local development environment, resulting in a 50% decrease in time required to fix flakey tests, by consolidating all sources of randomness to a single controllable seed.

### Shopify — Staff Software Engineer



Jan 2020 – May 2023 (3.5 yrs)

- Lead and shipped a series of infrastructure projects to empower product developers with delightful APIs and documentation when using Shopify's Billing platform.

- Scaled the billing and reconciliation platforms from thousands to millions of events and dollars collected per day, by identifying and eliminating bottlenecks at all levels of the stack.
- Grew my team from a small 5 person team to over 30 engineers across 4 sub-teams. I helped peers with individual technical growth through mentorship, pairing, and targeted delegation.
- Worked closely with other leaders to define long-term technical visions and short-term project roadmaps for how to achieve those visions.
- Directly lead and contributed to key performance and scaling projects such as:
  - Extracting and refactoring the tightly coupled billing component out of the core Shopify monolith into a developer focused platform
  - Refactoring and re-architecting applications so that their databases could be efficiently sharded & distributed

## Additional Shopify Roles

*Senior Software Engineer* — Jan 2018 – Jan 2020 (2 yrs)

*Software Engineer* — Jan 2015 – Jan 2018 (2.5 yrs)

- Built a high performance financial reconciliation data pipeline for Shopify Payments, which integrates with multiple 3rd party APIs and processes millions of events per day.
- Built a full-stack billing console which is used every day by both engineers and support staff to operate the billing application.
- Designed and built a high performance usage event system, which was key to creating the Shopify Plus product offering.
- Contributed to open source projects such as ActiveMerchant to internationalize the payment systems.

## Iotron Industries – Software Developer



Jun 2009 – Mar 2015 (5.5 yrs; part time through school)

- Built and maintained full-stack tooling for the company's internal business processes around inventory & maintenance scheduling
- Modernized legacy desktop software into a LAMP based web application
- Gathered and disambiguated software requirements from non-technical customers

## EDUCATION

### Carleton University – Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.), Software.

2010 – 2015, Ottawa Canada

With High Distinction

## References

Available from any previous experience upon request.