Bastian Gruber

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SUMMARY

Senior Rust engineer and published author ("Rust Web Development" - Manning) with 15+ years building scalable backend systems. Currently contributing to Firefox at Mozilla, shipping code to hundreds of millions of users. Founded Rust&Tell Berlin, the largest Rust meetup globally.

SKILLS

Languages: Rust, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Go
Frontend: React, Angular, Vue.js
Backend: Rust (Actix, Warp, Axum), Python (FastAPI), Node.js, Go
Patterns: REST, GraphQL, gRPC, async Rust, distributed systems (P2P)
Infrastructure: AWS, Google Cloud, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, Grafana
Domains: Systems programming, Firefox, FFI, protocol implementation, IoT, blockchain

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer - Full-time   July 2024 - Now
Mozilla, Remote
Contributing to Firefox (desktop and mobile) shipped to hundreds of millions of users. All work is open source.

- Leading the Image Service project: designing and implementing a cross-team service to provide favicons and images to Firefox Desktop and mobile
- Contributor to UniFFI, Mozilla's multi-language bindings generator for Rust, enabling Rust code to be called from Kotlin (Android), Swift (iOS), Python, and JavaScript (Desktop)
- Implemented OHTTP (Oblivious HTTP) support in application-services, enabling privacy-preserving API requests across Firefox Desktop, Android, and iOS
- Building and maintaining the Push notification service for Firefox (async Rust backend handling millions of concurrent connections)
- Contributing directly to Firefox (mozilla-central): shipping Rust and C++ code to Desktop
- Maintaining Merino, the web service powering Firefox Suggest with Python/FastAPI
- Creating internal Rust learning resources and leading "Rusty Fridays" sessions for engineers

Senior Systems Engineer, Team Lead - Full-time   April 2023 - June 2024
Toposware, Remote
Developing a Peer-to-Peer distributed network, with high throughput and low latency. Part of the core team, consisting out of 4 people. Implementing the protocol and the services in-house. Debugging of production issues, implementing the core protocol, re-wrote the CLI, led benchmark initiatives, set up part of the CI/CD flow and Grafana dashboards.

- Increased the throughput of a node 10x
- Re-wrote the CLI to add configuration and robustness, better user guidance
- Led a team of 3 engineers for an internal benchmark project
- Implemented load testing for part of the codebase
- Connected external EVM chains to the core network

Senior Software Engineer - Full-time   August 2022 - February 2023
Centrifuge, Remote
Part of the protocol team implementing the DeFi application on top of Substrate. Working in a self-governed organization, leading the documentation efforts around Rust and the protocol implementation.
- Implemented the auto-generation of the online documentation with every PR
- Enabled mutating of money pools in the protocol
- Implemented client facing APIs on top of the money fund pools
- Co-authored RFCs to enhance the protocol

Sr. Solutions Architect (Professional Services) - Full-time   June 2020 - August 2022
Twilio Inc., Remote
Second Solutions Architect hired for the new EMEA Professional Services team. Enabled enterprise customers to integrate Twilio APIs through architecture design, code reviews, and hands-on implementation support.
- Technical Lead for Fortune 500 client engagements, from architecture to delivery
- Built reusable integration patterns and deliverables adopted across EMEA team
- Established technical review processes and best practices for customer implementations
- Involved in hiring, onboarding, and scaling the Professional Services team

Systems Engineer - Contract   September 2019 - May 2020
Kraken Digital Currency Exchange, Remote (San Francisco)
Part of the first Rust team of the company, replacing the core trading engine with Rust. Worked alongside 12 highly experienced Software Developers from all over the world. Refactor code from PHP to Rust, wrote new features in Rust in a well-tested highly secure manner.
- Re-wrote several PHP services in Rust to increase the throughput 100fold
- Wrote new services in Rust from the ground up
- Cross-communication with different teams and the CTO

Sr. Software Engineer - Freelance   February 2016 - February 2019
OSRAM, Körber Digital, ERGO Group, GIATA (Berlin)
Freelance consultant for enterprise clients. Focus on microservices architecture, IoT platforms, and frontend development.
- Built authentication infrastructure for OSRAM's large-scale IoT platform (Node.js, Go, Lua)
- First engineering hire at Körber Digital; established tech stack and real-time data pipelines on AWS
- Migrated legacy PHP systems to Node.js microservices with Docker at GIATA
- Mentored teams on Scrum adoption and modern JavaScript practices

Frontend Developer - Full-time   February 2014 - March 2015
Dalia Research, Berlin
First and sole frontend developer at 8-person startup.
- Built survey platform and analytics dashboards in AngularJS
- Translated business requirements into product features across all browsers and devices

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science   September 2010 - February 2014
TH Ingolstadt
Scholarship from Allianz Deutschland AG to study Computer Science, fully funded and with trainings in Scrum, Java, PL/I and mainframe systems on the side.