Zev Averbach

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SUMMARY

Pragmatic software engineer who's in love with the web platform. Looking for peers and mentors to create great software together!

EXPERIENCE

Caterpillar, Inc. - **Senior Data Engineer** - Mar. 2020 - July 2023   Geneva, Switzerland
- Supported existing ETL pipelines defined in Apache Airflow.
- Refactored multiple existing Python packages and Airflow DAGs serving the global aftermarket solutions division.
- Took over DBA duties for the aftermarket Snowflake data warehouse.
- Patched Airflow to make the web interface more intuitive for data engineers, as well as bolted on password strength checks and rotation.
- Built an Airflow UI plugin to facilitate documentation of our tables by those most familiar with it (engineers and analysts).
- Created proofs of concepts of web APIs to expose data augmentation logic, as well as front ends for consuming from it.
- Designed, implemented, and deployed automation to rebuild and re-grant Snowflake views when the underlying table changed or other unforeseen changes.
- Ran weekly Python trainings for my team in 2020.
- Started and ran weekly Python "lunch and learns" across the organization.

Averbach Transcription - **Lead Developer** - June 2015 - July 2023   various
- Automated 90% of operational and administrative processes: Prior to taking this role, work assignment, invoicing, and confirmation of transcription projects were manual, and the business ran off of a spreadsheet.
- Created an automatic work assigner and a web API for processing transcribers' acceptance of transcription projects.
- Created automatic invoice generation. As of November 2018 99% of the invoices are also sent automatically without the need for human review. Implemented SQLAlchemy and Freshbooks API v2.
- Created a CLI for administering one-off business tasks, such as changing the due date or rate of a given project, combining invoices, adding PO numbers, etc. (Python)
- Built "slice and dice" product for qualitative research customers, which enables viewing all the answers to a given research question across many separate transcripts on a single page. (PHP)
- Pushed a handful of frequent customer requests to self-service fields on the customer interface, thus eliminating a significant portion of help desk tickets. (PHP and jQuery)

Recurse Center - **Participant** - Sept. 2018 - Oct. 2018
- Learned React.js and ES6 from scratch in order to build the prototype of Transcribely (see "Projects").
- Built a to-do list email bot.
- Dove into advanced Python features via pair programming with very curious, new programmers.

Tappt - **Co-Founder, Full Stack Developer** - May 2015 - Jan. 2021
- Formed a small team to collaboratively build the prototype of a web app that enables keyword search of YouTube videos. (Python, Flask, JS)
- Launched a commercial product based on the prototype in early 2018. Rewrote most of the app in a remote two-person team: Added user sign-up and authentication, integrated with the Stripe API for payments, and built SQLAlchemy models to replace raw SQL.
- Implemented indexing of the videos using YouTube captions, which reduced Tappt's operational costs to nearly nothing.

Averbach Transcription - **Founder, President** - Jan. 2008 - May 2015
- Founded Averbach Transcription to serve media and qualitative research clients.
- Known for exceptional transcript quality and rapid turnarounds.
- Recruited and managed a distributed team of remote transcription contractors, as well as a series of freelance developers and designers to first create the platform, then add features for transcription project management and assignment, client self-service, and scalability.
- Set up processes for CRM, accounts payable and receivable.
- 10% average annual growth in revenue
- 99.5%+ transcript accuracy consistently achieved
- "slice and dice" in-browser transcript product delivered to qualitative research clients.

SKILLS

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES: Python, JavaScript, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, Memcached, SQLAlchemy, React, Svelte, HTML, CSS, AWS, Git
SPOKEN LANGUAGES: English (native), French (B1)

PROJECTS

Kind Chess · Jan. 2023 - Current
- Wrote and deployed a complete front and back-end web application (websockets + REST) in vanilla JavaScript and Python.
- Currently refactoring to make it scalable using AWS services.
- link (live on the web!)

avt-fresh · Mar. 2022 - Apr. 2022
- Created an ergonomic API wrapper of Freshbooks' API v3.
- Wrote approachable documentation.

Plaid API-Integrated Web Apps · Sept. 2020 - June 2021
- Designed and built two web apps which integrated with Plaid's Assets API.
- AWS Cognito, Terraform, AWS Lambda, Render.com, Python + Flask, Svelte.js

The Syllabus · Sept. 2019 - Mar. 2020
- Architected and implemented a custom newsletter platform from soup to nuts.
- Worked around some challenging architectural choices that had already been made before I started.
- AWS SES, Python + Flask, Svelte.js.
- Launched within three weeks of starting.

Transcribe all the Things · Feb. 2019 - July 2019
- An open source CLI for submitting recordings to various speech-to-text web APIs and managing the resulting transcripts.
- Python w/ Boto3 and Google Cloud libraries

Transcript Processing · Oct. 2018 - July 2019
- An open source CLI for converting the output from various speech-to-text web APIs to a couple of standard formats.
- Python w/ Click

Viral Overlay · Feb. 2019 - Mar. 2019
- An open source CLI for overlaying styled text on a video based on the words spoken in the video.
- Python w/ Click and ffmpeg

Transcribely · Sept. 2018 - Sept. 2020
- A human-machine transcription app written in React.js + Python/Flask
- Enables a human to very efficiently edit machine-generated transcripts.
- Saves more than 50% of labor compared to a human transcribing the same recording from scratch.
- Currently getting ready to deploy for Averbach Transcription; demo available by appointment.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley · May 2003
Bachelor Of Arts, History, 2003