Melissa Thai

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer with **5 years full-stack and backend** experience at unicorn start-ups in the Bay Area. Lifelong learner with a history of solving complex problems from first principles and building clean, modular code.

EXPERIENCE

Independent Software Developer   Oct 2022 - Present

Coding passion projects from scratch and giving back to the tech community through contributing to **open source**.

- Published [Chrome extension](#) (**JavaScript**) for rock climbers that visualizes routes and helps set outdoor climbing goals.
- Created [Mac app](#) (**Swift** + **SwiftUI**) that automates repetitive tasks and boosts productivity.
- Contributed to open source projects, such as [react.dev](#) (**React**), by fixing highly-visible bugs.

Practica - *Software Engineering Coach*   Jan 2022 - Present

Coaching junior and mid-level engineers to level up their careers and achieve promotions through **technical guidance** and **mentorship**. Guiding learners to navigate technical and career-related challenges.

Modern Health - *Software Engineer*   May 2020 - Dec 2021

- **Led Django feature development** for a variety of high-profile projects: client summary views for healthcare providers, flexible scheduling tools, rating system to measure client progress over time (**Django** + **React**).
- Pioneered v1 of custom user engagement and retention system using **Django**, **SQS**, and external **APIs**.
- Decreased **load time** of in-house chat application by **50%** for power users with **Flask**, **Redis**, and **Relay**.
- Standardized alerting system with **Terraform** and **Datadog, reducing potential major incidents by 20%**.
- **Onboarded and mentored** new engineers, revamped technical interview process with standardized rubric and additional programming languages, and led eng presentation on **test-driven development**.

Airbnb - *Software Engineer*   Jun 2016 - Aug 2019

- **Shipped high-profile features** to the listing page: highlighted missing essential amenities (**React** + **Rails**), streamlined Save-to-Wishlist flow with one tap (**React**), and rewrote listing reviews frontend (**Redux**).
- **Led backend migration** of all business-critical listing pricing data from **Rails** monolith to **Java** microservices with **99.9%+ uptime**.
- **Improved Wishlist API performance by 50%** by identifying and resolving inefficient queries.

The Omni Group - *iOS Engineer, Intern*   Jun 2015 - Aug 2015

Integrated coalesced/predictive touches and other iOS 9 features in OmniGraffle (Editor's Choice App).

Implemented ability to add/modify ticket metadata for Omni's internal bug tracking application.

Freescale Semiconductor - *Software Engineer, Intern*   Jun 2014 - Aug 2014

Built Grails app that enabled employees to search and crowd-source semiconductor manufacturing applications.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, JavaScript (ES6), Java 8, Ruby, SQL

Tech: Flask, Django, React, GraphQL/REST, PostgreSQL, Docker, React Native/Expo, AWS, Next.js, Rails, Node

EDUCATION

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology   Sep 2013 - May 2016

B.S. Computer Science & Software Engineering (Magna Cum Laude)