Blaise Watson

Senior Software Engineer

San Diego, CA
+1 (203) 505-5878
http://blaise.gg
dblaisewatson@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidbwatson/

EXPERIENCE

Google — Senior Software Engineer *July 2014 - September 2023*

I was a member of the Datacenter Software team within Google Cloud. My team's job was to manage the health of Google's many production machines. Specifically, I helped build and maintain systems to monitor, repair, upgrade, and commission/decommission physical server hardware. I was promoted twice during my employment. I had many roles on several different teams during this time:

- Project lead for a multi year system migration that was replacing the entirety of the machine repair workflows. I managed work across 10+ teams and 50+ engineers, managed timelines, and designed replacements for the existing workflows (mainly the upgrade workflow).
- Engineer and later team lead for a 7 person team tasked with managing the workflows that controlled the repair, commissioning, decommissioning, and upgrade processes for machines. These workflows handled $XM worth of hardware repairs per day.
- Lead of a team that owned systems to intelligently reuse parts. We built machine learning models to predict whether parts would be reusable, saving $XX M per year.
- Engineer building systems to instruct humans how to fix broken hardware. We successfully completed a ground-up rebuild of the system resulting in significant gains in the ability to direct work, particularly for complex interconnected ML systems.
- Engineer building backend hardware problem detection systems in C++. Worked in a large legacy C++ codebase that handled petabytes of machine diagnostic data. I implemented new rules for detecting hardware issues, and performed data analysis on the performance of existing rules

Awards: Postmortem of the Month, Perfy (performance award), 30+ Thanks (paid rewards for good work)

Chegg Inc — Software Engineering Intern, Kleiner Perkins Fellow *June 2013 - August 2013*

Johns Hopkins Student Jobs — Various *September 2010 - September 2014*

PROJECTS

You Autocomplete Me — *link, github*

HTML/Javascript/Python Google autocomplete guessing game.

Japanese/English Translation — *link, github*

Python/Pytorch Japanese to English Transformer based translation.

Chess Detection — *link, github*

HTML/Javascript/OpenCV chessboard/chess piece detection.

EDUCATION

Recurse Center, NYC — Participant *Nov 2023 - Feb 2024*

Studied machine learning, did Advent of Code, and many projects (see above).

Johns Hopkins, Baltimore — Bachelors in Computer Science *August 2010 - May 2014*

Selected coursework includes: natural language processing and compilers and interpreters. Dean's list 4 times.