

# Sean Preston—Resume

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## About Me:

A company-minded, engineering leader, with a decade of experience innovating, architecting and scaling both products and platforms. I am currently building **open source, developer focused, privacy tools** at <https://ethyca.com>. I'm a keen skier, failed home-gardener and aspiring yogi. I love to move fast, and value resourcefulness in my architecture and decision making.

I love solving problems with code, and the gratification from mentoring others to do so with me. I am committed to measuring outcomes in order to continually learn from both failures and successes.

I prefer good foundational knowledge over any particular application, but some **tech I've worked with is:** Python, FastAPI, Django, REST, GraphQL, rabbitmq, celery, jMeter, SAML, nodejs, React, TypeScript, MySQL, Postgres, MongoDB, Redis, ElasticSearch, Google Cloud Platform, AWS, Docker.

My **leadership philosophy** values honest communication, collaboration, pragmatic decision making, diverse opinions and a sharp product focus.

I have both US and UK citizenship.

## Experience:

### Ethyca.com

*The mission of Ethyca is to become the world's most trusted software company. Ethyca delivers on this mission by developing freemium OSS-based tools businesses can use*

*to solve their bespoke in-house data privacy compliance problems. Ethyca's software is used by many large companies, including Away Travel, Casper, Twitter, and Lyft.*

**2021 - Present:** Engineering Manager at Ethyca.com

- Built an open source, standalone data subject request processor (<https://github.com/ethyca/fides>) used by some of the world's top companies to comply with worldwide data privacy regulations (GDPR / CCPA / CPRA)
- Hired candidates for my own and the wider Ethyca eng. team, owning the process through screen, tech assessment, culture assessment, exec assessment and offer making stages
- Have structured and grown this talented remote (US based) team of 15 engineers across two delivery teams structured around Ethyca's strategic goals (directly line managing five engineers myself)
- Spending around 1/3 of my time on IC work, and the other 2/3 on management work
- Collaborating with the product team to refine, capacity plan and delegate feature work
- Crafted the team's engineering process to pay special consideration to clean documentation, and a best-in-class developer experience
- Travelled to Lisbon, Portugal to launch, and demonstrate Fides v1.0 at the Web Summit conference. Repeatedly demo'd our software to live audiences over the course of three days, generating engagement and soliciting feedback
- Consistently identify opportunities and deliver solutions which enable the organisation to have greater measurable impact. Develop technology and product strategies which have successfully gained buy-in from the Executive Team.  
Examples include:
  - Spearheaded customer engineering efforts, improving last mile product delivery by reducing time to configure Ethyca software, thereby reducing our customers' time to value and reducing churn
  - Initiative to continuously check health of autonomous engineering teams

# Marvelapp.com

*Marvelapp is a collaboration platform used by designers, predominantly focusing on developing and testing UX prototypes with real human users. Marvelapp's overall platform has ~2.5m registered users, with ~50,000 actively building on the platform in any one month.*

## **2018 - 2020:** Lead Software Engineer

- Line managed 5 direct reports
- Delivered the next-gen iteration of Marvelapp's core team collaboration features as part of a broader monorepo architecture, reducing technical debt and speeding up future development
- Delivered an incrementally released entire site redesign with use of feature flags
- Architected a load testing pipeline which uses a Python script to generate test data then fits that data into a .jmx file run by Blazemeter on deployment
- Improved large video upload success by architecting a pipeline to optimise .webm videos for streaming using Google Cloud Functions. Triggered when a video is uploaded to a Cloud Storage Bucket, the Cloud Function uses nodejs to split the headers from the rest of video data before making sure the SeekHeaders and Cues are in the correct places
- Built <https://colors.marvelapp.com/>, an API integration that uses vanilla javascript to overlay colour filters on top of prototypes to illustrate to designers how their prototypes appear to colour-blind users
- Wrote a Career Levelling Framework to manage progression of those in our engineering team, which was then applied to the entire team
- Organised 2x company-wide hackdays (~40 people)

## **2016 - 2018:** Senior Software Engineer & Scrummaster

- Implemented a SAML service provider for Marvelapp, managed SSO integrations with enterprise clients
- Architected and built a data subject request processor to allow the Marvelapp organisation to handle GDPR requests from users wishing to access or erase their data in Marvelapp's custody

- Took a scrummaster training course with Evolve Beyond
- Team structure started as 5x backend engineers, moving eventually to 8x vertically integrated, before delegating scrummaster duties
- Managed roll-out of Marvelapp's publicly facing GraphQL API, building on top of the Graphene Python library. Many of our enterprise clients went on to build on top of this API to enhance their design operations
- Built and maintained a datawarehouse system and corresponding ETL scripts

#### **2014 - 2016: Software Engineer**

- Joined as first engineering hire, worked across the full tech stack, directly with founders
- Built out Marvelapp from MVP to the beginnings of an enterprise tool
- Implemented an actions-based events framework to enable real-time "multiplayer" collaboration in building prototypes using websockets. This events framework served as the basis for a notifications system and multiple third-party integrations (Slack, JIRA, ...) to alert users when changes were made to prototypes
- Integrated platform with cloud storage services to facilitate image upload and syncing on file change (GDrive, Dropbox, Box)
- Converted whole jQuery/Backbone frontend codebase to ES6 and eventually moved to React frontend

## **Rushmore.fm**

#### **2013 - 2014: Backend Engineer at Rushmore.fm**

- Developing new features for, and maintaining, the Django based Rushmore platform
- Collaborating with other developers (iOS, front end) to ensure API is filling all objectives and requirements
- Took part in product meetings to give a technical perspective on proposed features
- Built search indexes using ElasticSearch
- Built system to process stored videos using FFMPEG
- Built a Flash & WebRTC broadcasting tool

## Education:

2010 - 2011: MSc Web Intelligence, Department of Computer Science, King's College London, U.K.

2007 - 2010: BSc Computer Science, University of Durham, U.K.

## Entrepreneurship:

**2008-2010:** Co-founder at (now defunct) Purplebooks.co.uk

- Setup a textbook sharing website with two others during my second year at Durham University
- Built a website allowing users to list second-hand textbooks currently available for sale
- Facilitated over £5000 of second-hand textbook sales over two years before shutting down upon graduation