

Russell Ballestrini

Product & Services Engineer | 860-333-3047 | russell@ballestrini.net

[LinkedIn](#) | [GitLab](#) | [Personal Website](#)

Professional Summary

Innovative and results-driven Full Stack Engineer with over 15 years of experience in scaling systems, automating processes, and developing open-source software. Proven track record in executing ideas guided by vision and mission, uniting teams through effective communication, and growing product pipelines. Expertise in AWS infrastructure, DevOps practices, and building SaaS products from the ground up.

Core Competencies

Full Stack Development, Cloud Infrastructure (AWS), DevOps & CI/CD, System Architecture, Open Source Development, Team Leadership, Product Scaling, Security Implementation

Professional Experience

Full Stack Engineer

Coursemojo - Remote | 10/2022 - Present

Led the development and scaling of an AI assistant teacher for public schools, focusing on infrastructure management and application scaling.

Key Achievements: - Designed and implemented CI/CD pipelines for monolithic applications and microservices using AWS CloudFormation and GitHub Actions. - Scaled AI-powered educational tools using advanced language models (GPT-4, Claude-3, Mistral). - Developed teacher activity tracking tools, enhancing student progress monitoring capabilities.

Technologies: AWS (CloudFormation, SAM, ECR, ECS, ALB), GitHub Actions, Docker, Nginx, uWSGI, Flask, Python

Senior Security Engineer

Cofense - Remote | 07/2020 - 03/2022

Spearheaded security automation and compliance initiatives for SOC2 and FedRAMP environments.

Key Responsibilities: - Implemented Terraform-based AWS account controls and user access management. - Collaborated with scrum teams to ensure high-security integrity in product delivery. - Utilized tools such as Gitlab Enterprise, Okta, DefectDojo, and CloudMapper.

Lead Software Engineer

Remind - Remote | 06/2017 - 07/2020

Managed AWS infrastructure and led cloud cost optimization, security enhancements, and developer productivity improvements.

Key Achievements: - Ensured critical services scaled during COVID-19 lockdowns, supporting distance learning initiatives. - Implemented infrastructure-as-code using Python and Stacker. - Authored technical blog posts on infrastructure migration and status updates.

Technologies: AWS (ECS, EC2, SQS, RDS, DynamoDB), Linux, Python, CloudFormation

Founder

Make Post Sell - Remote | 01/2019 - Present

Bootstrapped a multi-tenant e-commerce platform for digital product sales.

Key Achievements: - Developed and open-sourced a complete SaaS solution. - Implemented commission-free selling model for shop owners.

Technologies: Linux, Python, Pyramid, SQLAlchemy, Caddy

Founder

Remarkbox - Remote | 02/2016 - Present

Created and scaled a hosted comment service focusing on privacy and ad-free user experience.

Key Achievements: - Bootstrapped the service from concept to profitable product. - Open-sourced the entire SaaS codebase.

Technologies: Linux, Python, Pyramid, SQLAlchemy, Nginx

Earlier Career Highlights

- **Senior System Engineer** at Mobiquity (06/2016 - 06/2017)
- **DevOps Engineer** at Mandiant (07/2014 - 05/2016)
- **System Engineer** at Cars.com (10/2012 - 06/2014)
- **Founder** of LinkPeek (01/2012 - 01/2022)
- **Unix System Administrator** at CSC (08/2006 - 10/2012)

Education

Associate of Science in Computer Science Three Rivers Community College | 2003 - 2006

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, Bash, PHP, Perl, Ruby, Go, Java

Cloud: AWS (extensive experience)

DevOps: SaltStack, Ansible, Packer, Docker, Kubernetes

Databases: Sqlite3, MySQL, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, MongoDB

Web: Flask, Pyramid, uWSGI, Nginx, Apache, Caddy, Websockets

Additional Information

- Remarkbox: <https://www.remarkbox.com>
- Make Post Sell: <https://www.makepostsell.com>