

Hrvoje Grdic

Ruby on Rails & React Engineer · Tech Lead · Payments & Fintech

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Software engineer since 2011, contracting since 2014 through my own consultancy. I build and operate systems where money moves and mistakes are expensive: payment processing, billing, reconciliation and large-scale third-party integration. Usually the **single point of technical ownership**: architecture, implementation, AWS infrastructure, deploys and on-call, end to end.

EXPERIENCE

Backslash d.o.o., Founder & Principal Engineer

2014 – Present

Independent software consultancy in Zagreb, delivering long-running engagements for clients in payments, e-commerce and SaaS. Member of the **Toptal** network, whose screening process admits roughly the top 3% of applicants.

• RunPayments, Tech Lead

Mar 2023 – Present

Payment processing platform · Ruby on Rails, React, AWS

- Technical lead and sole owner of a production **payment processing platform**: data model, application, front end, infrastructure and release process.
- Engineered for correctness under money-movement constraints: **idempotent transaction handling**, reconciliation, auditable state transitions, and backwards-compatible, non-destructive migrations.
- Run the entire **AWS estate single-handedly** (networking, compute, RDS, caching, object storage, IAM, monitoring and alerting), with zero-downtime deploys and rehearsed rollback paths.
- Built the React operator and merchant surfaces on top of the Rails API.
- Operate a **multi-database** platform, PostgreSQL on RDS alongside Oracle, with the Oracle side containerised in Docker so tests run against a reproducible local instance.
- Single point of accountability for uptime: on-call, incident response, capacity planning and infrastructure cost.

• Hubstaff, Senior Engineer

Jan 2020 – Feb 2023

Time tracking, payroll & invoicing SaaS · Ruby on Rails, Vue.js

- Owned the integrations platform: roughly **30 third-party integrations** across project management, accounting and payment providers, keeping time-tracking, project and payment data continuously in sync.
- Designed sync to survive the real world: rate limits, partial failures, backfills, webhook-plus-polling hybrids, and constant upstream API drift across dozens of independent vendors.
- Worked across the payroll and invoicing paths, where sync errors surface directly as incorrect payments.
- Full-stack delivery in Rails and Vue.js on a large, long-lived production codebase.

• Capitalize, Founding Engineer (sole)

2018 – 2019

Fintech startup · Ruby on Rails, React

- Sole engineer alongside the founder. Built the **entire product from zero**: architecture, backend, front end, infrastructure and deployment.
- The product I built solo carried the company through its **\$2M Series A**; an in-house team was hired after the raise, and the product remains in operation today.

• Client engagements via Toptal

2014 – 2018

US and EU clients · Ruby on Rails, Node.js, React, Android

- Back-to-back contract delivery across payments, e-commerce, retail and mobile, for clients ranging from early-stage startups to household-name platforms. Highlights listed below.

SELECTED CLIENT ENGAGEMENTS

BigCommerce

Real-time Rails sync engine holding items, orders, customers and payments consistent across **BigCommerce, Square and Clover**. Background-job architecture built around ordering guarantees, retries and idempotency.

Digital signage network	Rails platform for an advertising company running screens across hotels and venues: central ad management and per-display playlist scheduling. Held a contractual 7-minute publishing deadline on large playlists by sharding work across AWS Lambda with Redis caching, packaging Lambda code as Docker images and splitting live traffic across EC2 and Lambda behind an ALB with weighted routing .
Clover	Android applications for the Clover merchant device ecosystem, including native bridges between Android and Clover's SDK, and hybrid Ionic / Cordova integrations.
US sandwich franchise	Customer ordering application with deep Clover integration: kitchen and customer-facing receipt printing, plus a loyalty programme. <i>Chain name under NDA</i> .
Western Union	Node.js and Android development for customer-operated self-service terminals.
Philips	Large JavaScript ordering application for an apparel catalogue.
Boating in Boston	Ruby on Rails and Angular.js web application.
Griot	React Native and Android application built around real-time voice and video calling between field workers and remote support.
Also	20+ further engagements across payments, e-commerce and SaaS since 2014.

OPEN SOURCE

trebble-ruby	Author of the official Trebble SDK for Ruby : Rails middleware reporting API requests, responses and errors to Trebble's monitoring platform, while keeping sensitive fields out of what leaves the application. MIT licensed · github.com/Trebble/trebble-ruby
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EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Ericsson, Software Engineer Telecommunications · Java	2013 – 2014
PBZ (Privredna banka Zagreb), Software Engineer Banking · Java One of Croatia's largest banks, and the start of a career-long specialisation in financial software.	2012 – 2013
Iskon Internet, Software Engineer Internet service provider · Hrvatski Telekom group	2011 – 2012

TECHNICAL SKILLS

BACKEND	Ruby on Rails, Ruby, Python (Django), Node.js, REST & webhook API design, background-job architecture
FRONTEND	React, Vue.js, Angular.js, JavaScript
MOBILE	Android (Java), React Native, Clover SDK & native bridges, Ionic, Cordova
INFRASTRUCTURE	AWS (EC2, Lambda, RDS, S3, VPC, IAM, CloudWatch, ALB), Heroku, Vercel
DEPLOYMENT	Docker, containerised services and Lambda images, ALB weighted routing, autoscaling, zero-downtime releases, monitoring & on-call
TESTING & PERF	RSpec, Jest, Faker, DatabaseCleaner, performance profiling, memory and query analysis, production debugging
DATA & CACHING	PostgreSQL (RDS), Oracle, MySQL, Redis, Memcached, queueing and job pipelines
DOMAIN	Payment processing, billing & invoicing, reconciliation, idempotency & consistency, third-party integration at scale

EDUCATION

MSc, Computing University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER)	Zagreb, Croatia
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