MINA MIKHAIL

mina@fightingtheboss.com / fightingtheboss.com / Toronto, Canada

Driven engineering leader, educator, and creative technologist with 20+ years of experience creating robust and delightful products for the web.

KEY EXPERTISE

- Proven engineering leadership, Cross-functional collaboration, Team building & coaching, System design, Software architecture, Technical strategy, Operational efficiency, Product-focused engineering, Innovative problem solving
- HTML, CSS, JavaScript, TypeScript, Ruby, Rails, React, SQL, Node, GraphQL

AREAS OF INTEREST

- AI use-cases & interaction models, the web as a platform in a mobile world, reducing technical complexity
- Continuous growth, learning from failure, fostering a culture of trust, building world-class teams

EXPERIENCE

Engineering Manager
Shopify

Jan 2018 – Oct 2023
Toronto, Canada (Remote)

- Managed 20+ engineers across 3 teams, focusing on edge infrastructure, cart platform, and API performance
- Assembled a team to build an extensible, unified cart platform that directly led to booking new enterprise business and unlocking critical cart capabilities across all Shopify storefronts
- Improved API response times by 3x bringing average read response rates to under 150 milliseconds by managing the team that ported the Storefront API to be edge rendered
- Managed teams critical to ensuring resiliency and performance of global storefronts during flash sales and Black Friday/Cyber Monday (BFCM) peak load, with no incidents in 2 consecutive years
- Built team confidence and enabled onboarding of 20+ new people to the edge infrastructure on-call rotation by creating an ongoing series of presentations and table-top exercises around critical code paths and infra
- Worked in coordination with senior leadership to define, design, and develop a custom project management system focused on early buy-in, minimizing waste, and increasing project visibility and coordination across the organization
- Created a purpose-built CMS aimed at making context accessible and up-to-date org-wide, increasing employee engagement and freshness of data by 50%
- Developed and facilitated an org-wide course focused on practical basics of SQL for non-developers for use within Shopify data sources, delivered synchronously to 50+ employees and async to many more

Senior Manager, Instruction & Engineering
General Assembly

Dec 2016 – Jan 2018
Toronto, Canada

- Oversaw the integration of technology and instructional approaches post-acquisition and allocated budget to instruction and development time
- Hired, trained & managed a team of 15+ instructors, scheduling office hours and gathering student feedback
- Evaluated and standardized instructional tools across the organization as a key member of the Tech Curriculum Council

Chief Technology Officer, Lead Instructor & Developer
Bitmaker (acquired by General Assembly)

Jun 2013 – Dec 2016
Toronto, Canada

- Taught 1200+ full time students with a 90% job placement rate among job seekers within 3 months of graduation
- Developed industry-relevant, feedback-driven curriculum on all aspects of full-stack web development
- Designed and developed an in-class teaching platform for delivering content and assignments, tracking progress, and receiving real-time questions and feedback from students
- Created a customer acquisition system that integrated CRM, email campaign, and event & ticketing systems to streamline and automate complex workflows, saving many person-hours per week

Lead Product Engineer & Designer
MUBI

Oct 2009 – Aug 2012
Palo Alto, CA / London, UK

- Grew user base 11x in one year, adding 3M users by leading Sony PS3 video-on-demand application from concept to launch, including wireframing, interaction, design, Rails API development and documentation
- Designed and implemented mubi.com, a responsive, touch-enabled, single-page VOD application that became the company's core international business
- Re-designed and developed Notebook, MUBI's popular film magazine, front- and back-end including a custom CMS for writers

Co-founder
TIFFR

Jul 2009 – Present
Toronto, Canada

- Designed and developed a novel system for planning attendance to the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), built with Rails and React
- Over 5k active users per festival, a large portion of annual pass holders and press & industry attendees
- Coordinate with TIFF annually to deepen the integration between the two systems, across tech, UX and marketing

.NET Consultant
fightingtheboss

Nov 2007 – May 2009
Toronto, Canada

- Developed a custom hardware control system for hydroelectric turbine efficiency tests using .NET, used in over 500 turbine efficiency tests internationally. (client: HPPE Inc.)
- Doubled the number of respondents in one year by assisting in the creation of a robust, real-time online pension analysis survey in .NET (C#). (client: CEM Benchmarking Inc.)

EDUCATION

University of Waterloo
Bachelor of Applied Science / Computer Engineering / Co-op Education Program   Waterloo, Canada