Alex Rivera

Backend Engineer | Chicago, IL
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Summary

Backend engineer with 8 years of experience building payment and logistics systems in Python and Go. Comfortable owning a service from design to on-call, and at my best on high-volume, event-driven platforms.

Experience

Senior Backend Engineer 2021 - present
Lumen Logistics *Chicago, IL*

- Rebuilt the shipment tracking service in Go, cutting p95 latency from 900 ms to 180 ms at 40 million events a day.
- Designed the Kafka event pipeline that replaced nightly batch jobs, so customers see status changes within seconds.
- Led a team of four engineers and introduced design reviews and on-call runbooks; paging incidents fell by 60%.
- Moved 30 services from EC2 to Kubernetes on AWS with no customer-facing downtime.

Backend Engineer 2017 - 2021
Harbor Payments *Chicago, IL*

- Built card payment and refund APIs in Python (Django) handling $2 billion in annual volume.
- Added idempotency keys and retry-safe webhooks, ending duplicate charges during partner outages.
- Wrote the PostgreSQL partitioning plan that kept the ledger fast past 1 billion rows.
- Mentored three junior engineers, two of whom were promoted within a year.

Projects

queuewatch: Open-source Go tool that alerts on consumer lag in Kafka and RabbitMQ; used in production by several teams.

Skills

Languages: Go, Python, SQL, TypeScript
Infrastructure: PostgreSQL, Kafka, Redis, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Terraform
Practices: API design, event-driven architecture, observability, incident response, mentoring

Education

B.S. in Computer Science 2013 - 2017
Lakeshore University *Chicago, IL*