Neil Leonora

Ruby on Rails Engineer · 14 years of Rails

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SUMMARY

Ruby on Rails engineer with 14 years of production Rails experience and 18 years in software. I own integrations end to end, keep systems running when the team is stretched thin, and enjoy teaching: I give tech talks and write the docs that help teams get unstuck. Recently I've been building AI-agent tooling in Rails 8.

EXPERIENCE

Software Developer, Unabridged Software — Remote · Oct 2021 – Present

Rails consultancy. Embedded long-term with a national franchise publishing company (community magazines and digital-marketing products), working across its two largest Rails monoliths and supporting API gems.

- Took over ad-tech integrations with one other developer after the tech lead's departure. Co-owned the Simplifi programmatic-advertising integration end to end: API client gem, audience management, automated campaign activation, clone/pause on sales-rep changes, a reconciler, and rate-limit and failure handling. The integration has created **33,000+ campaigns since its Nov 2023 launch (~6,700 in the last year).**
- Shipped the ER+ advertising product across two Rails applications: data models, design-queue workflow, monthly sync jobs, pricing, cancellations, notifications and race-condition protection.
- Gave frequent tech talks to the engineering team to introduce new tools and techniques, including demos of a Model Context Protocol (MCP) server for the company's internal operations app and an AI-agent orchestration tool I built.
- Wrote the team's explainer on the Kafka event pipeline after it confused developers across the team.
- Executed a zero-downtime data migration (dual-write, backfill, read switch, then retired the legacy table) with no production interruption.
- Maintained and extended the Accelo workflow-integration gem, mapping new product lines into order sync and workflow states.
- Built billing and renewal features: hosting auto-renewals with cancel-before-renew handling, pricing for new products, and data-cleanup tasks.
- Reduced technical debt: retired obsolete feature flags, converted HAML views to ERB, refactored toward view models, and fixed flaky tests.

Ruby 2.7–3.4 · Rails 7.0–7.2 · MySQL · Sidekiq · Redis · Kafka (Karafka) · Hotwire · ViewComponent · Elasticsearch · Stripe · AWS · Minitest/Capybara · Capistrano

Programmer Analyst Sr., Loma Linda University, School of Dentistry — Loma Linda, CA · Nov 2012 – Oct 2021

Led feature development for the department's web platforms on a team of up to four (two developers, two designers).

- When the team's other developer and both designers left during COVID and a hiring freeze blocked replacements, ran the department's software development alone for over a year: set priorities with department leadership, handled UI design, owned deployments and production support, and documented every system.
- Migrated the department's Rails applications from an on-premises Mac mini to Azure, designing a Dokku-based deployment platform on my own.
- Rewrote the continuing-education events platform (registrations, invoicing, receipts, reporting) as a Rails v2, migrating from MongoDB to PostgreSQL to improve query performance, and introduced automated testing. Carried the product through three generations.

- Built a software-licensing platform and REST API for the school's paid educational software: license holders, product licenses, one-time redeemable access codes, and versioned Mac/Windows downloads on S3.
- Automated lecture-video delivery to students with a Rails app and an AWS Lambda/SAM importer (S3, DynamoDB).
- Replaced a native macOS video-cataloging app with a Rails + Angular/TypeScript web app.
- Built an alumni-directory admin (Rails 6, Sidekiq, Heroku) with USPS-standard address verification, a live camera-switching controller (StimulusReflex, Redis), and a Slack ops-monitoring bot.

Rails 4–6 · PostgreSQL · MySQL · MongoDB · Redis · AWS (S3, Lambda, DynamoDB) · Azure · Dokku · Heroku · Docker · Angular · Vue.js · Padrino

Earlier Experience

- **Software Engineer II, BAE Systems**, 2008 – 2012: defense systems software (flow analysis, test tooling, documentation). Held a Top Secret security clearance.
- **Software Developer Intern, General Atomics**, 2007 – 2008: ASP.NET / SQL web development. Received a return offer.

PROJECTS

- **Maestro** (2026, private; demo on request): a Rails 8.1 kanban board that orchestrates AI coding agents (Claude Code, Codex, Cursor). It has per-column prompts, automatic routing on agent results, git worktrees, PR review and AI risk scoring. Built with Solid Queue, Hotwire and SQLite, with 170+ test files. I use it daily.
- **Production side apps:** thegloriousdadbod.org and partygooseco.com (Rails 8, Kamal, Stripe). Earlier: Simpleator, an online 10-key calculator (built in Rails with Stripe; later migrated to a static site on Netlify), and conference-registration apps (Rails, Stripe, Docker).

SKILLS

Languages and frameworks: Ruby, Rails (4–8), Hotwire (Turbo, Stimulus), Hotwire/Turbo Native, JavaScript, TypeScript, Angular, Vue.js, SQL

Data and infrastructure: PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite, Redis, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Kafka, Sidekiq, Solid Queue, AWS (S3, Lambda, DynamoDB, KMS), Azure, Heroku, Docker, Kamal, Capistrano

Integrations: Stripe, Twilio, Simplifi, Accelo, SmartyStreets, Slack, REST API design, API client gems

Practices: Minitest/Capybara, zero-downtime migrations, feature flags, AI-assisted development (Claude Code, MCP, agent orchestration)

EDUCATION

BS Computer Engineering, San Diego State University, 2008