

Valentine Rogers

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SUMMARY

Full-stack software engineer with 13+ years of experience building reliable, scalable web applications, with deep expertise in Ruby on Rails and TypeScript/Node across backend services and RESTful APIs. Extensive hands-on experience building and operating agentic AI systems in production: a custom MCP server exposing a GraphQL API to external AI tools, a Node/Express AI gateway that routes natural-language intent through Claude to downstream services, and multiple projects built using Claude Code and CLAUDE.md-driven agentic development workflows. Strong PostgreSQL and background-job (Sidekiq/Redis) experience, with a track record of mentoring engineers through pairing and code review and leading technical direction across ambiguous, fast-moving environments as both a technical lead and a first engineering hire.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: Ruby on Rails, React, TypeScript, JavaScript, Node.js, GraphQL, StimulusJS/Hotwire, SwiftUI

Data & Infrastructure: PostgreSQL, Redis, Sidekiq, SQL, AWS, Heroku, GitHub Actions, RSpec, Capybara, FactoryBot

AI Tools & Agentic Workflows: Claude, CLAUDE.md instruction files, Cursor, MCP servers (built and consumed), CLI and MCP-driven project scaffolding and deployment, AI-assisted code review

Practices: Agile/Scrum, TDD, Code Review, CI/CD, REST & GraphQL APIs, Software Architecture, Technical Mentorship, Client/Customer Communication

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer (Senior/Lead) | The Gnar Company

May 2022 – Mar 2026

Senior/lead engineer and consultant shipping full-stack applications for government agencies and high-growth startups across a range of stacks and team sizes.

- Designed and built a bidirectional Rails ETL integration syncing large product-information datasets between Eclipse and Plytix for a commercial construction materials distributor, using the interactor pattern to keep extract, transform, and load steps composable, independently testable, and resilient to partial failure across third-party APIs.
- Designed and built a Rails/StimulusJS/Turbo system that ingests and geographically maps multiple large demographic and commercial datasets for a company matching eco-friendly contractors with grant-eligible homes; implemented the ingestion as an interactor-based ETL across several external APIs and rendered results with Mapbox.
- Senior level IC on a Rails/StimulusJS platform for Massachusetts EEC, a government-level system with strict privacy and reliability requirements, supporting a cross-functional team that scaled from 2 to 15+ team members; co-created rotating Release Manager and Unplanned Work Manager roles to sustain delivery at scale.
- Joined and ramped quickly into several existing client codebases across Rails, Next.js, and TypeScript; led architecture discussions, design reviews, and exploratory spikes, worked directly with clients to define and prioritize requirements, and mentored engineers through pairing and code review.
- Early adopter in a team initiative on AI-assisted and agentic development, helping evolve practice from LLM chat and autocomplete toward more integrated workflows using Cursor and Claude; contributed to team standards for AI-generated code review and test generation.

Founder & Principal Engineer | Dunwell Labs LLC

2019 – Present

Independent product studio building and operating live Rails products end to end, alongside client work for small to medium-sized businesses.

- Kumbuku: a personal operating system for intentional living, built on a Rails 8 API with a Next.js/TypeScript frontend and SwiftUI iOS app. Includes Sidekiq/Redis background jobs, Stripe billing, and a custom MCP server exposing the app's GraphQL API to external AI tools and agents.
- WayBetterLists (App Store): a collaborative family list app on SwiftUI and a Rails 8 API, with real-time sync via PostgreSQL notifications and SSE, and AI photo-to-list parsing (Claude with an OpenAI fallback).
- Kitovu: an iOS content-capture app built using a CLAUDE.md instruction file to direct agentic development, acting as a REST client into ContentSwitchboard, a headless content platform, with direct-to-storage video uploads and automated publishing.
- Built custom automations, in Cursor today and directly transferable to Claude Code's custom commands and subagents model, that scaffold and deploy new projects end to end: creating the git remote, building, deploying to Vercel, routing DNS for a domain or subdomain, and setting up transactional email.

Principal Software Architect | Awaken180° Weightloss

May 2019 – May 2022

Primary engineer collaborating closely with a technical product owner on architecture, technical direction, and day-to-day engineering decisions.

- Built and evolved backend Rails APIs powering internal coaching tools and a consumer mobile app.
- Integrated third-party applications into internal systems via secure, scheduled and on-demand API pipelines.
- Implemented error monitoring, alerting, and CI pipelines, reducing production incidents and increasing deployment confidence.

Technical Lead | CarePort, powered by WellSky®

May 2018 – May 2019

- Led the 'Accelerate' team, designing and building internal tools to reduce engineering risk during hospital client go-lives and safely shift high-stakes implementation tasks to analysts, as the number of go-lives more than 10X'd after the then-recent Allscripts acquisition.
- Improved onboarding reliability for hospital systems handling sensitive patient data, ensuring privacy, integrity, and operational consistency.

Senior Software Engineer | Ampion, PBC.

Jan 2016 – Feb 2018

- First engineering hire; defined engineering culture, best practices, and architecture from the ground up for community solar back-office software.
- Built API integrations for live solar production data; worked with offshore engineers and PMs to deliver high-quality releases.

Senior Software Engineer | OfferLogic (Acquired by Wayfair and Rokr)

Apr 2014 – Dec 2015

- First engineering hire; built and scaled a cloud-based promotional offer delivery platform from MVP to enterprise-grade reliability.

Technical Consultant → Software Engineer | Arcadia Healthcare Solutions

Jun 2012 – Apr 2014

- Built healthcare data pipelines and ETL processes for public health plans and community health centers; promoted into a Software Engineer role building a quality improvement tool for clinics using Rails and TDD.
- Owned the full SDLC: requirements gathering, design, development, QA, UAT, deployment, and production support.

EDUCATION

Worcester Polytechnic Institute — B.S., Management Information Systems (2006–2009)