Alex Strick van Linschoten

London, UK ✉ alexstrick@fastmail.com strickvl alexstrick.com

PROFILE

I am a Software Engineer based in London, UK, and the co-creator of Ekko, a self-deployable realtime infrastructure library with in-transit message processing. I have multiple years of experience in the Ruby and JavaScript ecosystems and am comfortable working with Go, PostgreSQL, AWS cloud infrastructure and Docker. I have a PhD in History and authored several books based on my research work in Afghanistan.

EXPERIENCE

2021 – present

Co-Creator, Software Engineer, Ekko
https://ekko-realtime.com/
- Co-created Ekko, an open-source framework allowing developers to easily add realtime infrastructure and in-transit message processing to web applications
- Prototyped and built WebSocket server using Node.js, Socket.IO, and Redis
- Designed the cloud infrastructure needed to support tens of thousands of concurrent WebSocket connections and serverless Lambda invocations for messages (Application Load Balancer (ALB), ECS Fargate, S3, ElastiCache, Lambda, IAM policies/roles and VPCs)
- Containerised the server code for deployment to AWS cloud infrastructure (Docker, ECR, ECS)
- Automated infrastructure deployment using AWS Cloud Development Kit (CDK) code, CloudFormation templates and SDK
- Worked on CLI tool for project setup, AWS credential configuration, infrastructure deployment, teardown, and Lambda management (oclif / JavaScript)
- Load tested the real-time service using artillery.io to simulate 50,000 concurrent connections
- Collaborated daily with a small team of fully remote engineers spread over 14 timezones
- Wrote a comprehensive technical case study documenting design decisions (https://ekko-realtime.com/#case-study) along with repository and code documentation

2018 – 2021

Full Stack Web Developer, Self Employed
- Coachbot, an open-source application to support independent study for language learning (first Flask / Python, then Ruby / Sinatra, hosted on Heroku)
- 'Ello, a kanban board application inspired by Trello (React / Redux, Express and MongoDB)
- RequestBin, a database-backed application for receiving and debugging webhooks (NodeJS, PostgreSQL, Socket.IO, cron jobs)
- Tasky, a personal task management app (Ruby/Sinatra, PostgreSQL and Handlebars.js)

2004 – 2020

Researcher / author / consultant, Consultancy / Freelance
- Led data cleaning, analysis and document processing / munging efforts on the largest criminal case in US history; field investigation and research work across the Middle East and Afghanistan for legal defence cases; extensive experience working in teams (sized from 2 up to 30)
- Set up and ran a major initiative to index, digitise, translate, and distribute a landmark collection of archival documents estimated to contain more than 2 million words of text
- Author of four critically-acclaimed books based on fieldwork and research in Afghanistan (Oxford & Cambridge University Press)

SKILLS

Backend	Frontend	Tooling	Cloud
Node.js / Express	JavaScript	Git / GitHub	AWS (EC2, DynamoDB,
PostgreSQL / MongoDB	HTML/CSS	Docker	Lambda, S3, Fargate, ECS,
RESTful APIs	React / Redux	Linux	CDK, SDK)
Ruby / Sinatra	Handlebars.js	OpenBSD	Digital Ocean
(Go / Python)	jQuery		Heroku

CERTIFICATES

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) (Linux Essentials)

EDUCATION

2010 – 2016   **PhD, War Studies,** King's College London

2003 – 2007   **BA, Arabic and Persian,** SOAS (University of London)

LANGUAGES

English • Arabic • Pashto • Dari / Persian • Dutch • German