

SARA ELIZABETH JOHNSTON

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced Senior Full-Stack Engineer (10+ years) proficient in Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, PHP, and diverse database architectures. Highly skilled in web application architecture, performance optimization, and translating stakeholder requirements into deployable code. **Seeking autonomous, remote or hybrid roles** (including Technical Sales Engineering) focused on delivering strategic, high-impact outcomes, open to quarterly travel.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2024 - Present

Technical Solutions Consultant & Freelance Web Developer

Programs/Languages: PHP, WordPress, Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, Chart.js, HTML, SCSS

- Delivered full-stack web solutions for diverse SMB clients, managing the entire project lifecycle from initial scope definition and wireframing through development and final deployment
- Launched 6 custom websites utilizing modern stacks and consistently delivered on aggressive client deadlines
- Achieved a 100% client satisfaction rate, resulting in high positive referrals and repeat business by expertly managing all client relations, technical requirements, and contract timelines
- Optimized application performance and stability across the client portfolio, providing continuous technical consulting, ongoing security patching, and maintenance to minimize downtime

CLIENT LIST

- IT Resume Service
- Tech Career Services

October 2020 to January 2024 | FlexJobs | 100% Remote | Company acquired and department moved overseas

Senior Software Engineer

Programs/Languages: PHP, Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, jQuery, JS, MySQL, HTML, SCSS/SASS/CSS, GIT/Github, SSH

Extras: VS Code, WordPress custom theming, version control, repository management, API building & integration

- Designed, developed, and implemented web applications across 5 core websites and 15 microsites using Ruby on Rails
- Troubleshoot and debugged existing applications and databases to ensure system stability
- Collaborated within agile, cross-functional teams (sized 3 to 35) to rapidly implement and deploy high-impact features within a two-week sprint cycle
- Reduced technical debt through extensive refactoring improving overall maintainability and performance, generating 2,000+ GitHub commits
- Created dynamic and interactive user interfaces
- Applied in-depth knowledge of SEO principles and best practices
- Proven track record improving organic search traffic by 45% and reaching top 5 search rankings
- Generated a 32-fold increase in advertising revenue by implementing ad optimization strategies and successfully integrating additional, high-performing ad inventory
- Collaborated closely with stakeholders and product managers to ensure agile sprints were consistently completed on schedule
- Participated in weekly code reviews, providing constructive feedback and ensuring comprehensive testing

CLIENT LIST

- FlexJobs
- RemoteCo
- JobHunt

December 2019 to October 2020 | coolbluweb LLC | Remote & Onsite in Seattle, Washington

Senior PHP/WordPress/Web Developer

Programs/Languages: PHP, jQuery, JS, SQL, HTML, SCSS/SASS/CSS, GIT/Github, SSH

Extras: npm/gulp, WordPress custom theming, version control, repository management, Pantheon, Digital Ocean

- Managed the full development lifecycle for an average of 5-8 concurrent client projects, achieving a 100% on-time delivery rate
- Ensured seamless integration with client branding
- Implemented new client-driven branding across a multitude of websites
- Integrated front-end prototypes with custom-built WordPress themes and plugins
- Managed and oversaw application life cycle from development to production
- Drove application quality by achieving near-perfect PageSpeed Insight scores (94%–100%) via comprehensive code optimization and site-speed audits
- Utilized best practices for SEO implementation and improvement
- Supported application lifecycle management
- Provided live site debugging for production application incidents

CLIENT LIST

- RealSelf
- Alchemy Health & Wellness
- Bowhunting.com

October 2013 to November 2019 | Bigfin.com LLC | Onsite in Redmond, Washington

Vice President of Development

Programs/Languages: PHP, jQuery, JS, SQL, HTML, SCSS/SASS/CSS

Extras: PUG/Jade, twig, Node.js, WordPress custom theming, npm/gulp, version control, repository management

- Provided technical leadership and mentorship to a development team of 4-7 full-stack engineers, fostering skill growth and high-quality output
- Directed project delegation and execution across Development, SEO, and Marketing teams, supporting a client base of 180+ accounts
- Oversaw client relationships and managed onboarding, design, development, and deployment
- Managed multiple client projects to ensure on-time delivery and completion
- Ensured seamless integration with client branding
- Provided UX/Development feedback during wireframing and design process
- Prototyped interactive, responsive, and cross-browser compatible HTML mockups and feature enhancements
- Designed, developed, and implemented custom back-end solutions
- Integrated front-end prototypes by custom building WordPress themes and plugins
- Managed and oversaw application life cycle from development to production
- Optimized applications for improved performance and speed, reducing load time and improving user experience and client satisfaction
- Utilized best practices for SEO implementation and improvement
- Continued management of application life cycle for 100+ websites
- Provided live site debugging for production application incidents, and technical and escalation for team of developers

- Managed live site debugging for production incidents and provided technical escalation for the developers
- Maintained continuous operational readiness and security compliance for a high-volume portfolio of 100+ live client websites by performing weekly cloud server management and critical environment updates (development, staging, and production)

CLIENT LIST

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| - Cardiac Science | - MainStreet Property Group (including 11 of their mixed use property websites) |
| - Leading2Lean/L2L | - Delivery Express |
| - Sartorius | - Fairfax Hospital |
| - McCormick Homes | - Bob's Smart Home & Bob's Heating |
| - CORPSMART | - SEATAC Electric |
| - Dump It | - Kirby Electric |
| - BlueBin.com | - Hone Landscaping |
| - Ninjacators | |

June 2013 to October 2013 | Seattle Clouds | Bellevue, Washington

Mobile Applications Developer

Programs/Languages: Mac OSX, SeattleClouds.com app building software, HTML5, CSS3

Extras: PUG/Jade, twig, Node.js, WordPress custom theming, version control, repository management

- Life cycle, technical and operating support to troubleshoot via telephone, live chat, and support tickets
- Assisted clients in applications deployment to multiple app stores
- Worked with clients for storyboarding, prototyping, designing, and development of mobile applications
- Oversaw templating, prototyping, designing, and development of applications for repeated client use

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

May 25, 2017 | Digital Technology Mixer | Seattle, Washington

Keynote Speaker

August 2008- June 2013 | Fun Committee, Washington State University | Pullman, Washington

President and Member

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

August 2015 to Current | Kirkland Community Center | Kirkland, Washington

Community Volunteer

Supported 50+ community events, facilitating food distribution for hundreds of underserved families

Managed the physical setup and organization of event equipment for 10+ community engagement events

Volunteer for 7 years | Women's Transit, Washington State University | Pullman, Washington

Student Assistant (SA) and Volunteer

Member for 4 years | Phi Beta Lambda, Walla Walla Community College | Clarkston, Washington

Vice-President and Member

EDUCATION

Washington State University | Pullman, Washington

B.A. Digital Technology and Culture

Professional Writing Certificate