

Steve Butterworth

Senior Ruby on Rails Engineer

Rails/Ruby · PostgreSQL · Elasticsearch · Data ingestion · Kafka · 1st Class BSc (Hons) Comp Sci

Ipswich, Suffolk · stevebutterworth@me.com · 07790 893856 · linkedin.com/in/stevebutterworth

Profile

Software engineer with 20 years' experience building and maintaining Ruby on Rails systems, with a strong focus on data-heavy systems: live data ingestion, search, filtering, classification, dashboards and production reliability, from high-frequency event pipelines to long-running operational tooling.

Across permanent, contract and independent roles, the work has been consistent: hands-on end-to-end technical ownership of reliable, long-running Rails applications, working directly with customers, stakeholders and small technical teams to turn messy real-world data and workflows into reliable software.

Core Skills

Backend - Ruby on Rails, API design, Sidekiq, RSpec

Data - PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, Redis, Kafka, ingestion, validation, rollups

Operational Tools - Dashboards, admin workflows, reporting, alerting, monitoring, customer-facing reliability

AI/ML Support - LLM classification, summarisation, data cleanup, prompt/workflow integration

Engineering Practices - Automated testing, CI, coding standards, documentation, stakeholder communication

Experience

Senior Rails Engineer & Product Owner · **Changeflow** 2023 - Present

Rails-based monitoring and alerting product, independently built and operated

Built and operated a production Rails platform for scheduled website monitoring, change detection, classification and customer alerting.

- Designed the core data model, monitoring pipeline, background jobs and notification workflows.
- Integrated Puppeteer/Node.js browser automation with Rails, PostgreSQL, Redis and Faktory/Sidekiq.
- Added AI-assisted classification, summarisation and filtering to reduce noise and improve alerts.
- Own deployment, production reliability, support and customer feedback loops.

Senior Full Stack & Rails Engineer 2010 - Present

Independent Rails consultancy & product engineering

Independent Rails consultancy delivering full-stack, often data-heavy web applications for clients. Work typically spans discovery, architecture, build, deployment, customer liaison and long-term maintenance, with a focus on reliable Rails/PostgreSQL/Elasticsearch systems. Select engagements below:

Senior Rails Engineer · **NTT Data (Contract/Seasonal)** 2014 - 2023

Engaged via LEX & Pulse Group

- Delivered time-critical live data-ingestion and visualisation systems for NTT DATA sports sponsorships including The Open, BMW International Open and Indy 500.
- Integrated Kafka, XML posts, WebSocket feeds, HTTP streaming, GPS/timing data and weather polling into live event data pipelines.

- Validated, reconciled and synchronised high-frequency live data feeds for real-time visualisations under fixed event deadlines.
- Used PostgreSQL staging tables, bulk loading, rollups and aggregations to support performant analysis and derived display state.
- Built Rails/JS/D3.js/Three.js systems powering live 3D shot tracking, public websites and large-format event displays.
- From creative concepts to over 1 million daily visits in 4 months, against immovable deadlines.

Senior Rails Engineer · Environmentjob.co.uk (Contract/Fractional) 2013 - Present

Part-time Senior Rails engineer for The UK's leading environmental jobs platform

- Build and maintain systems for job search, advertiser tools, admin workflow, CRM and reporting
- Job board plus comprehensive admin, advertiser and job-seeker portals from scratch
- Engineering includes data modelling, Elasticsearch for full-text search, faceted filtering and email alert system sending over 150k/week
- Built CRM, admin workflow and AI import, clean up and classification systems
- Full maintenance and upgrade journey from Rails 1 to Rails 8

Senior Rails Engineer · GlaxoSmithKline MVOC Analyser 2019

Engaged by AI firm Retechnica

- Built medical voice of customer reporting dashboard
- Included analysis, reporting, interactive visualisation, PDF & PPT export
- Delivered on time and on budget, receiving a 9/10 satisfaction score from 50+ stakeholders

Lead Rails Engineer · AlphaSights 2008 - 2010

Information-services & advisory firm · Cambridge/London

- As first employee and technical lead, set the technology direction with the founders, recruited and led the initial Ruby on Rails based technology team - for a company that has since grown to over 2k employees.
- Architected and built a bespoke CRM and customer-portal system underpinning the firm's client communications.
- Role involved technical recruitment, coding standards, best practices, mentoring as well as liaising with internal stakeholders to gather requirements, create specifications, data modelling and designing the system architecture.

Additional Experience

Co-Founder · Unicorn Studios Ipswich 2019 - Present

Co-founded a not-for-profit creative co-working space for remote workers, freelancers and contractors.

Rails & PHP Developer · Humble Technologies 2006 - 2008

PHP & Ruby consultancy for UK clients, including lowcarbon.com and Chameleon Studios.

Senior Software Engineer · i2, Inc. (now part of IBM) 2002 - 2005

Led the web version of the flagship analytics tool; built a Java / JS SDK letting third parties embed its charting technology.

Software Developer · Crystal Decisions (now part of SAP) 1999 - 2001

Built enterprise OLAP components and a front-end JavaScript SDK and mentored new developers.