Karen Rustad Tölva

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Experience:

Lead UX Engineer, AeroFS; April 2014 – present

I am the sole designer and lead frontend developer at a small startup building a suite of security-conscious cross-platform enterprise collaboration products. I maintained a complex user dashboard application and converted it to AngularJS, and used Python, Pyramid, and protobuf on the backend to support new user-facing features including link-based file downloads and group sharing. I prototyped new desktop applications using ReactJS, flexbox, and Electron. I successfully wrote and advocated for the company parental leave policy and revamped our hiring pipeline. In November 2014 I and a coworker won the fall company hackathon; we created a secure file upload web application which is actively used by the AeroFS support team.

UX Consultant; July 2013 – January 2014

I solved user experience design, visual design, and front-end development problems for clients including Least Authority, ZeroMailer, and Oppia. Tools used include Python, Jinja2, Less, JQuery, and Bootstrap 2 and 3.

Product Software Engineer, Disqus; June 2012 – March 2013

I refactored the forum settings backend to use Django forms and worked on a moderation interface redesign to make it usable for larger sites with multiple moderators. I also singlehandedly redesigned the API docs pages to make them more harmonious with the rest of the site and built a demo developer portal as a hackathon project. I reviewed colleagues' code using Phabricator and participated in standups and prioritization meetings.

Information Organization Lab TA, UC Berkeley; August – December 2011

I helped teach an I School intro web dev course using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and other tools. I gave lectures with live code demos on JQuery, CSS3 and design basics, and taught a two-part self-written Django tutorial.

Google Summer of Code Intern, Code for America; May – August 2011

I designed and helped build the initial prototype of CfA Brigade, a Ruby on Rails-based web application and set of strategies to help Code for America coordinate civic hacking volunteers in cities across the United States.

Director of Research and Design, OpenHatch; June 2009 – October 2009

I attended weekly startup incubator meetings, wrote a business plan, prioritized user stories, drew graphics, designed web user interfaces, learned to use git, and pitched in front of 200 investors and entrepreneurs.

Education:

M.S. Information Management and Systems, 2012

University of California, Berkeley; Berkeley, CA

Notable classes: User Interface Design and Development, Information Systems and Service Design, Information Organization and Retrieval, Information Organization Lab, Interface Aesthetics
Chen Award honorable mention for capstone project 'Building a Free, Open Source Legal Citator'

B.A. Media Studies, *magna cum laude*, 2008

Scripps College; Claremont, CA

1600 SAT; 3.81 GPA.

Volunteering:

PyCon talk review committee: Co-chair, present; Member, 2012, 2014, 2015

Art director, MIT Mystery Hunt; 2013

Board member and volunteer, Students for Free Culture; December 2005 – February 2008

Skills, keywords, buzzwords: HTML / HTML 5, CSS / CSS3, Less, flexbox, Twitter Bootstrap, JavaScript, JQuery, AngularJS, ReactJS, Electron, Python, Django, Flask, Wordpress, Git, IRC, UI, UX, design, illustration, cartooning, service design, product management, writing, public speaking

Hobbies and interests: Rock climbing, webcomics, meteorology, civil liberties and security policy, piano