

# Ben Ward

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# Senior Engineer

- Results-driven full stack senior engineer with extensive international experience in Fortune 500 companies and startups. Loves making things and shipping code.
- Scalability/Performance: Very large applications (3 mil+ users) to market.
- Security/Compliance: Designed and developed systems in social networks, financial services, social lending, accounting, and domains.
- Collaboration/Teamwork: Plays well with others. Agile Best Practices, Pair Programming, TDD, Continuous Deployment
- Lean Startup: Four Founder/Officer positions: Gets the big picture and the critical path to get the company where it needs to be.
- Giving it back: Leads workshops on Ruby on Rails and React

## Technology Summary

**Languages/Frameworks:** Ruby, React, Backbone, Angular, Javascript, Perl, C++, Objective C, PHP, Java  
**Testing:** RSpec, Capybara, Capybara-webkit, Jasmine, Jenkins, CircleCI  
**Databases/Key Stores:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, Oracle, SQLServer, MongoDB, Sqlite, Redis, ElasticSearch  
**Ops:** Amazon Web Services, Heroku, Dedicated Web/Mail/DB, Memcache, Varnish, Git, Vagrant, Chef  
**Integrations:** Intuit, Yodlee, Expedia, Google Maps, Bing, Chargify, Stripe, Paypal, Authorize.net

## Professional Experience

### VP ENGINEERING, FINDERY - SAN FRANCISCO (08/2014 – PRESENT)

Findery (<https://findery.com>) is a user-generated-content platform for users to share what fascinates them about places in the world. It is an Editor's Choice in the App Store, and has been critically acclaimed in both the tech and consumer press.

- Frontend & Backend Development of our sites and API and using Rails, Backbone, and React.
- Managed the iOS, Android, Windows, Frontend, Backend, and DevOps teams.
- Developed and managed Windows 10 Launch for Phone and Desktop.

### CTO/CO-FOUNDER, CHEQBOOK.COM - MAUI (08/2011 – 08/2014)

Cheqbook (<http://cheqbook.com>) is a full-featured accounting SaaS and alternative to Quickbooks Online. Cheqbook downloads all your transactions and categorizes them saving business owners two weeks a year.

- Designed, developed, and managed dev team on online accounting SaaS (Rails/Javascript).
- Managed all technical aspects of business.
- Received patent for categorization and transaction processing engine

### SENIOR ENGINEER (CONSULTANT), CLOUD CITY DEVELOPMENT - SAN FRANCISCO (08/2013 – 12/2013)

Lady Gaga's Artpop app was released on iOS/Android to coincide with her album "Artpop" release. I was contracted to create a high-performance, redundant Rails backend for the apps. There were 1 million downloads in the first 48 hours of launch.

- Developed and stress-tested a Ruby on Rails backend to support iOS & Android mobile apps.

### SENIOR ENGINEER, PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION - MAUI (04/2009 – 06/2011)

Pacific Whale Foundation (<https://www.pacificwhale.org>) is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 to save whales from extinction.

- Development and maintenance of six web sites in the areas of online reservations, online store, conservation, and research. Developed sighting and tracking software for humpback whales.

## Professional Experience (cont.)

### **CTO/CO-FOUNDER, MANEO KK - TOKYO (04/2006 – 08/2010)**

Maneo (<http://maneo.jp>) is first social lending company in Japan. Individuals can obtain a loan via an auction where investors bid. After the auction reaches 100%, the interest rate will start to go down with additional bids. As of 09/2015, over \$280mil USD in loans have cleared with a very low default rate and an average interest rate between 5% and 8%.

- Designed and developed all features including auction and social networking systems
- Installed and maintained web, mail, DB, and file clusters (14 servers)
- Defined engineering and operations procedures
- Managed 3 member development team
- Company purchased by M'Grant Food Service on 08/03/2010.

### **ENGINEERING DIV. MANAGER, GMO INTERNET, INC. - TOKYO (08/2002 – 12/2009)**

GMO Internet (<http://gmo.jp>) is a publically traded Internet Services company with 86 subsidiaries that purchased my previous company Solis KK.

- Responsible for the improvement, integration, and upkeep of all systems.
- Hired, managed, and grew a multi-national technical staff (4 teams, 25 people, 800+ servers, 5 datacenters).
- Re-defined engineering and operations procedures
- Merged previous Operations division into Engineering to increase efficiency, raise morale, and cut-down on turnover.
- Managed a Datacenter migration of more than 150 servers. Upgraded more than 300 servers.
- Managed staff and technical integration of previous company Solis KK.

### **CTO/CO-FOUNDER, SOLIS K.K. - TOKYO (02/2001 – 08/2002)**

Solis (<http://solis.jp>) was my first company and the second ICANN accredited domain registrar in Japan.

- Designed and developed domain registration system.
- Managed all technical aspects.
- Hired, managed, and grew the technical staff (2 teams, 6 people, 10 servers).
- Defined technology discipline, best practices and associated processes. Streamlined support processes and escalation procedures.
- Created the infrastructure and back-end for a domain name reseller system with over 350 resellers
- Company purchased by Global Media Online KK on 09/21/2005.

### **SENIOR ARCHITECT, SAPIENT CORPORATION – ATLANTA/NEW YORK/TOKYO (04/1999 – 02/2001)**

- Managed small development teams on multi-tier web-based applications for Global 500 companies. Clients include Goldman Sachs, GE Capital, Mitsubishi, Sony, and iwon.com.
- Created and grew the technical discipline in the Sapient KK Tokyo office.

### **SENIOR ENGINEER, IXL – ATLANTA (07/1997 – 12/1999)**

- Designed and engineered projects ranging from rich-media promotional sites to large distributed web-based applications for
- Fortune 500 companies including Equant, Mckinsey, and Honda.
- Provided preliminary research and support setting up the iXL Tokyo branch office.

## Education

**Brandeis University:** BS, Computer Science, East Asian Studies, 08/1994 – 06/1997

**Tokyo International University:** East Asian Studies 1995 – 1997

## Links

<https://github.com/ben-ward> (Most work is private. Access shared on request.)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wardben>

## Personal

Fluent in Japanese. I love coding, making, cycling, swimming, and deep house. Married with two boys.