

Khristian Gaines

Senior Software Engineer & Technical Founder

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SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer and Technical Founder with 10+ years building backend systems, APIs, automation workflows, and integration-heavy platforms across consulting, enterprise, and startup environments. Cofounder of Faster Agile, a technical consulting firm delivering production systems since 2011. Open to senior engineering roles and consulting engagements.

CORE STACK & FOCUS AREAS

Stack:

Ruby on Rails · PostgreSQL · REST APIs · AWS (Lambda, Kinesis, DynamoDB, SES, S3, Kubernetes) · Python · Docker · Redis / Sidekiq · React · LLM APIs

Focus:

Backend Architecture · Automation · Integration-Heavy Systems · Data Pipelines · Workflow Systems · LLM-Powered Automation

EXPERIENCE

Cofounder & Principal Consultant — Faster Agile

2011 – Present | Remote | Available for new client engagements

Cofounded a technical consulting firm delivering backend systems, APIs, cloud infrastructure, and AI-powered tools across client teams.

- Delivered 8–10 production systems across web, API, and integration-focused engagements
- Led AWS IoT data pipeline decoding cellular fleet telemetry via Kinesis, DynamoDB, and Python-backed Lambda APIs
- Built digital archival system using Project Blacklight and Solr to surface previously unreleased content
- Defined architecture, scoped project labor, and led engineers through delivery and production support

Senior Rails Engineer — Best Buy

2022 – 2023 | Remote | Contractor

Built deployment tooling and integrations supporting CI/CD and production change workflows for a proprietary internal platform.

- Automated ServiceNow change request creation integrated into the CI/CD pipeline
- Enabled API-driven application deployments to AWS Kubernetes, reducing infrastructure costs
- Diagnosed and resolved pipeline bugs using Jenkins, Splunk, and Dynatrace
- Enforced IT security policies and practices across all production systems

Senior Software Engineer — Dutchie

2021 – 2022 | Remote

Built back-end APIs and integrations on a cannabis POS and e-commerce platform serving dispensaries nationwide.

- Developed Rails APIs for menu and order syncing with POS systems
- Improved menu data accuracy by replacing brittle key/value lookups with regex-based parsing
- Reduced mismatches between in-store POS updates and web menu representation
- Supported feature rollouts using feature flags; improved Rollbar and DataDog monitoring coverage

Senior Software Engineer — Leafly Holdings

2019 – 2021 | Remote

Senior engineering team member delivering customer-facing features on one of the largest cannabis marketplaces.

- Refactored legacy Ruby on Rails code to reduce tech debt using current best practices
- Created and maintained API endpoints enabling new internal and external product features
- Collaborated with external engineers to build new menu and order integrations
- Mentored junior engineers and provided level-of-effort estimates to product managers

Software Engineer — Allovue

2014 – 2015 | Baltimore, MD

First engineering hire at an education resource-planning startup dedicated to K–12 schools and districts.

- Oversaw selection and integration of Elasticsearch with a Ruby on Rails backend
- Built ETL process to ingest inconsistent district data into PostgreSQL and index into Elasticsearch
- Built RESTful API in Rails backing an Ember.js frontend
- Automated Docker container deployment using Ansible

Software Engineer — Faster Agile

2011 – 2014 | Boston, MA

- Built new features for a collaborative email management tool using Ruby on Rails and TDD
- Improved test coverage to 99% using Code Climate; upgraded client codebases to current Ruby/Rails versions
- Designed and built MVPs using Ruby on Rails for early-stage entrepreneurs
- Built RESTful APIs enabling better data access for mobile and desktop applications

SELECTED PROJECTS

Soigneur — Agentic Cycling Coach

Python · Claude API · Intervals.icu API · Telegram · Railway · JSON Memory

- Deployed agentic coaching system that polls Intervals.icu every 30 minutes, detects completed rides, and delivers personalized analysis via Telegram
- Maintains persistent training memory (athlete profile, block context, historical patterns) across sessions
- Generates post-ride analysis, workout recommendations, and weekly summaries using LLM prompts assembled from structured ride data
- Implements constraint-based scheduling logic, decoupling baselines, and TSB-aware load management

Email Action Extraction System

AWS SES · S3 · Lambda · PostgreSQL · React · OpenAI API · API Gateway

- Built end-to-end pipeline (SES → S3 → Lambda → RDS) for reliable email ingestion and thread detection
- AI extraction layer identifies action items, responsible parties, and due dates from variable email formats
- React dashboard provides shared visibility into outstanding actions, ownership, and completion status
- Automation layer routes outputs to calendar events, Slack messages, Asana tasks, and email drafts

EDUCATION

Certificate in Entrepreneurship

Harvard Business School Executive Education

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

University of Maryland, College Park

SKILLS

Agile/Scrum · Amazon Web Services · Ansible · Apache Solr · APIs · AWS Lambda · CI/CD · Docker · DynamoDB · Elasticsearch · Ember.js · Git · Heroku · HubSpot · JavaScript · Jenkins · Kinesis · Kubernetes · LLM APIs · Linux · Microservices · MySQL · OAuth · OpenShift · PostgreSQL · Python · React · Redis · REST · Rollbar · RSpec · Ruby · Ruby on Rails · S3 · ServiceNow · Sidekiq · Splunk · SQL · System Design · TDD · Terraform