Samuel Collard

AUSTIN, TX | HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/SWCOLLARD/

SUMMARY

Backend engineer and technical lead with experience leading cross-functional teams and elevating operational excellence.

EXPERIENCE

STAFF SOFTWARE ENGINEER, APOLLO GRAPHQL; AUSTIN, TX (REMOTE) – 2022-PRESENT

Graph Tooling and Model Context Protocol Team

- Contributing new features to open-source MCP Server for integrating LLMs with backend APIs. https://github.com/apollographql/apollo-mcp-server
- Full-stack engineer responsible for maintaining GraphOS Schema Checks, a continuous integration product that automates the validation of non-breaking changes to GraphQL APIs, ensuring safe deployments and reducing risk during API changes for developers.
- Tech lead for expanding the Schema Checks product by designing and implementing:
  - Schema Linter: Enforced configurable formatting and best practices, ensuring consistent and maintainable schema code across teams.
  - Custom Checks: Developed a hook into the CI pipeline to extend validation logic, enabling team-specific rules and enhancing flexibility in schema validation.
- Championed operational excellence by establishing weekly reviews of dashboards, key metrics, and backlog items. Led efforts to reduce the latency of core components by 40% year-over-year, while prioritizing bug fixes that improved availability service level objectives (SLOs) from three 9's to four 9's.

STAFF SOFTWARE ENGINEER, H-E-B; AUSTIN, TX – 2019-2022

Cart to Home Team, Tech Lead

- Technical lead for a team of 10 engineers across Backend, iOS, Android, and Frontend Web disciplines owning the cart and checkout experience for heb.com and MyHEB mobile apps.
- Created an interviewer shadow program and documented interview feedback standards to help organization hire over 100 developers in a single year.
- Led technical design and project delivery for team to develop customer facing features such as product preferences, post-order modifications, rejecting substituted items, cross product purchasing limits, and an image upload flow to enable contactless delivery of alcohol.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER, AMAZON; SEATTLE, WA & AUSTIN, TX – 2013-2019

Search Customer Experience, Developer Experience Team; 2017 – 2019

- Drove the formation of a partner engagement team with a focus on service decoupling and experiment acceleration for developers building on the new search platform.

- Owned the technical design and implementation of debug tooling for search and browse pages, enhancing troubleshooting efficiency and reducing issue resolution times for developers.

Amazon Flex, Mobile Services and Components Team; 2016 - 2017

- Maintained service that allowed mobile application owners to manage their mobile application versions, similar to Apple's App Store. Onboarded 3 new internal apps to this service, including training workshops, documentation, and video demos on a command line interface to release new app versions to targeted sets of customers.

Search Experience, Mobile Team; 2013 - 2016

- Developed native Android product search experience for the launch of the Fire Phone. Then, ported the search experience to the main Amazon shopping Android app.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN, AMAZON; SEATTLE, WA – SUMMER 2012
SOFTWARE QA ENGINEER INTERN, CISCO; SAN JOSE, CA – SUMMERS 2010, 2011

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University – B.S. Computer Engineering, December 2012
Magna Cum Laude; Minors in Business and Mathematics

SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES USED

- Kotlin, Java, Javascript, Typescript, Rust, Python

- AWS ECS, Lambda, DynamoDB, CloudWatch; GCP Kubernetes, CloudSQL, PubSub, Spanner

- Datadog, Terraform, PagerDuty, Gitlab CI, CircleCI, GraphQL-Kotlin, Ktor, Dropwizard

BLOG POSTS

https://www.apollographql.com/blog/enforce-flexible-governance-in-graphos-using-custom-checks

https://swcollard.github.io/