Ricky Chilcott

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Full-stack engineer and product-focused entrepreneur with 15+ years building and scaling SaaS platforms. Expertise in Ruby on Rails, system architecture, and operational efficiency. Proven track record co-founding startups (Causey, Stoked, Mission Met) and delivering products from concept to $120k ARR and beyond.

SUMMARY

Job History

- **Co-Founder** @ Stoked (2025 - Current)
- **Senior Software Engineer** @ Imedview (2025 - Current)
- **CTO/Operator** @ Causey (2025 - Current)
- **Co-Founder & Principal Software Engineer** @ Rakefire (2011 - Current)
- **Co-Founder/CTO** @ Mission Met (2019 - 2025)
- **Technology and Facilities Manager** @ Scripps College, Ohio University (2009 - 2017)

Education

- **M.A. in Communication** Ohio University 2016 - Media Management
- **B.S. in Communication** Ohio University 2016 - Audio-Music Production, minor in Business and Music

Top Technologies

- **Ruby, Rails, JavaScript, Sidekiq, PostgreSQL, Redis, SQLite, Turbo/StimulusJS**

Additional Experience With

- **AI-LLMs, Claude (Code, Skills, Agent Teams), Cursor (Editor, Agent), Node.js, Python, Docker, DevOps, CI/CD, TailwindCSS, Design Systems, UNIX Tools**

Areas of Interest/Expertise

- Ruby on Rails development
- Web Application Performance and Operational Efficiency
- TDD (Test-driven Development)
- Mentoring Software Engineers
- Code generation and gen-AI-based feature development

- Online Payments + Subscriptions
- Strategy Planning & Execution
- Running a Business and Solving Problems
- Self-maintaining systems

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages

Ruby, **JavaScript/Node.js**, **Scala**, **Java**, **C/C++**, **HTML**, **CSS**, **UNIX Scripting** (zsh, bash, sh)

Frameworks

- **Ruby**: Ruby on Rails, Sidekiq, Sinatra, Rack
- **JavaScript/NodeJS**: Turbo/StimulusJS, Webpack, esbuild, React
- **Testing**: RSpec, Jest, Capybara, TDD/Test-driven Testing, Integration Testing
- **Design Systems**: Boostrap, Tailwind CSS, Storybook, ViewComponent, Phlex, Shoelace JS/Web Awesome
- **DevOps**: Docker, Capistrano, Ansible, Puppet

Architecture/Infrastructure

- **Relational Databases**: PostgreSQL, SQLite, AWS RDS
- **Hosting Platforms**: Render, Heroku, AWS
- **Edge Networking + CDN**: Cloudflare, AWS CloudFront
- **Webserver**: nginx, Caddy
- **WAF + Network Firewall**: Cloudflare, RackAttack, AWS
- **Application Monitoring**: Honeybadger, NewRelic, Skylight, Rollbar
- **Business Intelligence**: Redash, Posthog, Blazer
- **CI/CD**: CircleCI, GitHub Actions, Jenkins

Operating Systems

Mac OSX, **Ubuntu**, **Amazon Linux**, **iOS**, **UNIX Tools**

Software/Tools

Bundler, **Rake**, **Thor**, **Make**, **Jenkins**, **GitHub**, **Asana**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder - Stoked

Athens, OH (January 2025 - Current)

- Co-founded a bootstrapped startup focused on brand advocate programs at Direct To Consumer (DTC) brands. Key customers include Bunch Bike and FounderWell
- Implemented features in Rails using Event-based architecture based on Active Event Store
- Developed an internal library based upon Literal and the *command pattern* and leaned into `===` type matching
- Used Cursor, ChatGPT Codex, and other AI code-gen platforms to increase development
- Led customer discovery interviews, sales, marketing, and all non-technical aspects of the business.
- Co-Led application architecture, product development, company strategy, and overall process improvement.

CTO/Operator - Causey

Athens, OH (April 2025 - Current)

- With a change in ownership of Mission Met (sale to business partner), I am running Causey, largely in maintenance mode.
- Added SSO - OpenID Connect (OIDC) integration to the platform for enterprise customers
- Expanded permissioning to include more granular control
- Address bugs and monitor performance of application

Co-Founder & Principal Software Engineer - Rakefire

Athens, OH (September 2011 - Current)

- Developed in-house products and consulted on Ruby on Rails applications.

Notable Projects:

- Developed a solar racking quoting tool for Ecolibrium Solar's EcoX pitched-roof racking product (acquired by Unirac).
- Developed a IOT Backend and GraphQL API for Glow.
- Developed the Healthy Heart score calculation system based on emerging research in food and lifestyle choice for Ohio University Health Sciences and Professions in Ruby on Rails, Hotwire, and Stimulus.
- Developed a Radio Signal Visualizer Map for emergency radio communication across the state of Ohio in Ruby on Rails, Hotwire, and Stimulus.
- Developed a basic web-based digital signage platform and equipment check-in/check-out system for the Ohio University Patton College of Education in Ruby on Rails.
- Wrote e-commerce website crawling framework and implementations for 10+ brands for Maven Labs (personal selling platform) with internal tooling to review crawl results in React and Crystal.

Co-Founder/CTO - Mission Met

Athens, OH (November 2019 - 2025)

- Co-founded a bootstrapped startup focused on strategic planning software, training, and consulting for mission-driven leaders.
- Designed and built the web-based Causey platform, growing it from concept to $120k ARR and securing partnerships with 10+ strategic planning consultants/firms and over 80 customers.
- Led engineering team management, application architecture, product development, company strategy, and overall process improvement.

Notable Projects:

- Built i18n and custom-labeling infrastructure to to support language across consulting firms and multiple languages.
- Cut hosting costs 30% by migrating from Heroku to Render + AWS RDS
- Developed an affiliate consultant program yielding 10+ ongoing relationships.
- Designed an intentional training program that transformed a junior engineer into a competent mid-level contributor within 18 months.

Technology and Facilities Manager - Ohio University Scripps College of Communication

Athens, OH (March 2009 - October 2017)
Oversaw the IT and Technical Production Operations for the Scripps College of Communication.

- Managed, hired, and trained full-time IT staff and part-time student staff to maintain labs, staff computers, and equipment rooms.
- Oversaw the security, patch management, configuration management, etc of 200+ faculty/staff computers and 200 computer lab machines across the college, in addition to several specialized video and audio studios and media suites.
- Automated software deployment through Munki, Munkiserver, shell and python scripts, Windows GPOs, and other configuration technologies.
- Managed a $500k annual budget for multiple college departments and led $120k in software procurement and IT upgrades.

Notable Projects:

- Stood up a campus-wide (and transitioned to Office of Information Technology control) a Munkiserver deployment that was used to deploy hundreds of software packages across 1,000+ Mac computers campus-wide.
- Managed the IT/Media budget and equipment installation for the Schoonover Center remodel of $800,000.
- Coordinate the movement of 200+ faculty/staff computers and 150 lab machines during a multi-phase Schoonover renovation project.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Rotary, Club of Athens Ohio, District 6690 Member and Strategic Planning Chair/Public Image Chair - Aug 2023 - Present

- Leadership Athens County (LAC) Cohort participant - Athens County Foundation - 2022-2023
- Co-founder and manager of Athensworks, a co-op coworking space supporting local entrepreneurs - 2013 - 2025

EDUCATION

Ohio University, MA

- Master of Arts in Communication, Media Management, and Media Marketing
- Graduated: June 2016, Magna Cum Laude
- Attended actively 2008 - 2009; finished in 2016

Ohio University, BSC

- Bachelor of Science
- Major: Audio-Music Production
- Minors: Music and Business
- Graduated: June 2011, Magna Cum Laude
- Took several computer science classes

PDF version of this resume at https://www.rickychilcott.com/resume.pdf.

OPEN SOURCE

Below are a list of all of my open source contributions organized by repository and date. I deeply believe in the importance of open source and utilizing, improving, and contributing back to the community in a myriad of ways – code contributions, answering questions, and evangelizing approaches, frameworks, and libraries.

pcoe-de-checkout-rails

- Upgrade to Ruby 4.0.1 and fix security vulnerabilities *contributed February 2026*

avo

- fix: add disconnect() cleanup to Stimulus controllers *contributed February 2026*

- Make placeholder and help callable *contributed November 2022*

- Support virtual_attributes in key_value field *contributed October 2022*

- feature: Callable readonly *contributed August 2022*

- Support `date` and `date_time` to clear the value *contributed July 2022*

- Avo 1.x Backport: Rails 7 deprecates Date#to_s in favor of Date#to_formatted_s *contributed April 2022*

- Rails 7 deprecates Date#to_s in favor of Date#to_formatted_s *contributed April 2022*

- fix: Support older version of Pundit *contributed February 2022*

- feature: Allow Avo::NavigationLinkComponent to accept an optional target param *contributed February 2022*

- fix: Add 'tools' key to i18n *contributed February 2022*

solid_queue

- Fix NoMethodError when status.exitstatus is nil *contributed January 2026*

rails_event_store

- Update browser time to follow ISO 8601 standard *contributed July 2025*

roast

- Specify correct gem name *contributed May 2025*

literal

- Allow defaults to reference methods inside class *contributed May 2025*

jekyll-ical-tag

- Add recurring events support *contributed July 2024*

- Fix reversing *contributed April 2021*

- Dereference variables without using `dig` *contributed April 2020*

- Support RFC 5545 property names and custom properties *contributed April 2020*

- Allow vars in Jekyll Loops *contributed April 2020*

- Local scope, page variables, and refactor; oh my! *contributed April 2020*

- universally fix encodings *contributed April 2020*

thredded

- Switch to GitHub Actions *contributed July 2024*

- Rails 7.2 Compatibility *contributed July 2024*

- Support Pundit 2.2.0+ *contributed February 2022*

- Update Onebox *contributed July 2021*

- Switch to RailsGravatar *contributed April 2021*

- Switch to RailsGravatar *contributed April 2021*

langchainrb

- Improve Ollama to implement #summarize and #default_dimension *contributed February 2024*

- Simplify Logging *contributed June 2023*

- Switch directions to run bundle exec rake *contributed May 2023*

- Better Dependency checking *contributed May 2023*

- 🚚 Loaders: PDF and Text *contributed May 2023*

- Finish up optional deps *contributed May 2023*

- Better Logging *contributed May 2023*

- Fix Chain of Thought prompt loader *contributed May 2023*

- StandardRB *contributed May 2023*

- Optional dependencies *contributed May 2023*

docx

- Fully Support Styles *contributed December 2023*

view_component

- Add Causey to Projects List *contributed July 2023*

bridgetown

- Parse using JSON.parse for more resilient parsing *contributed November 2022*

- Specify locales in "multi locale" mode *contributed November 2022*

mrujs

- Pass value of select elements *contributed October 2021*

- Better support for input submissions *contributed October 2021*

onebox

- Update addressable to address CVE-2021-32740 *contributed July 2021*

futurism

- Better errors *contributed May 2021*

- Use rails convention to underscore collection class names *contributed April 2021*

- Support GlobalId objects *contributed April 2021*

- Better recognize urls *contributed April 2021*

- Rename Element to WrappingFuturismElement *contributed April 2021*

- Lazily load default controller *contributed October 2020*

- Pass url on each request and parse to build params hash *contributed October 2020*

- Add instructions to setup local environment *contributed October 2020*

- Allow passing in controller *contributed October 2020*

passwordless

- Add passwordless test helpers *contributed October 2020*

hypdf

- Relax httparty version dependency *contributed September 2020*

hypdf

- Relax httparty version dependency *contributed September 2020*

ntee

- Remove unicode characters from name string *contributed September 2019*

- As easy way to build a rails dropdown of NTEE codes *contributed September 2018*

clearance

- Allow cookie_domain to be a string or a callable *contributed August 2019*

stack-on-a-budget

- Add Apify to web-scraping *contributed November 2018*

jekyll-directory

- Allow wildcards in path *contributed October 2018*

faker

- Generate unique address *contributed September 2018*

- Fix Specs *contributed September 2018*

appreciation-app

- Disallow unverified users from logging in *contributed August 2018*

suspenders

- Use HTTPS url for Github Hub script *contributed May 2018*

meetglow.com

- Add iOS and Android screenshot to home page *contributed January 2018*

- Buying guide graphics *contributed August 2017*

- Improving Buying Guide user flow and layout *contributed August 2017*

munkiserver

- updating setup for automated installation *contributed December 2017*

- Style improvements *contributed May 2017*

- Expand API to include /:unit_shortname/packages package listing *contributed May 2017*

- Automate package upload with Autopkg *contributed February 2017*

recaptcha

- Fix invisible_recaptcha_tags to work in testing modes *contributed September 2017*

nml-website

- Jekyll Migration *contributed March 2017*

heroku-bouncer

- Change readme reflect new heroku-cli-oauth api *contributed September 2016*

coffeetalk

- Adding a homepage and signup form *contributed September 2016*

athensworks.github.io

- Make standalone — No Octopress plugins, scripts, etc. *contributed January 2016*

Hello-IT

- Adding a LaunchAgent *contributed September 2015*

outset

- Adding every boot functionality *contributed May 2014*

prose

- Making try/catch blocks consient for jsyaml.safeLoad calls. Should fix #615 *contributed October 2013*

munkiserver

- Delete unused package files *contributed October 2013*

- Adding .travis.yml in prep for adding TravisCI *contributed June 2013*

- Fix macupdate parse *contributed May 2013*

- Addressing issue #118 with two new rake tasks and more whenever tasks. Fixing #118 *contributed December 2011*

- Various display fixes and now AJAxified computer index. #86 *contributed December 2011*

- Here is a collection of patches which relate to issue #61. It is not closed, but is in process. *contributed November 2011*

- Re-factoring my solution for the add computer widget and fixing bug which showed expired computers in the warranty widget *contributed October 2011*

- User no-longer requires units to show add_computer widget. Fixes #73. *contributed October 2011*

- "Add Computer widget", Catalog caching and other small fixes *contributed October 2011*

- Simple fix to hostname issues *contributed September 2011*

Assetter

- Upgrading to Xcode5 *contributed October 2013*

Viewpoint

- Update README.md *contributed September 2013*

gistr

- Strip ActiveRecord as dependency *contributed August 2013*

surveyor

- Update kitchen_sink_survey.rb *contributed May 2013*

puppet-bootstrap

- Hide puppet user at loginwindow on Mac OS X *contributed February 2013*

powser

- Allow powser to be used for multiple apps *contributed November 2011*

luggage

- Adding documentation for the pkgls command and fixing #1 *contributed September 2011*