

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:** Bootstrap, 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 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.rickyhilcott.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*

jeekyll-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 consent 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*