

JULIAN MERCER

BACKEND DEVELOPER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Developer with 9+ years of experience building APIs, distributed services, and data systems at Netflix, Stripe, and Datadog. Improves reliability, latency, scalability, and developer productivity across high-volume production platforms.

CORE SKILLS

Java | Kotlin | Go | Python | REST APIs | Microservices | PostgreSQL | Redis | Kafka | Distributed systems | AWS | Docker | Kubernetes | Observability | System design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Backend Developer Netflix, Los Gatos, CA

Jun 2021 - Present

- Designed Java and Kotlin services processing 6.8B daily playback events, sustaining 99.99% availability during peak releases under sustained production load.
- Reduced p95 API latency 42% through query redesign, Redis caching, and asynchronous fan-out, lowering compute cost \$3.2M annually across subsequent production releases.
- Led migration of 14 services from synchronous calls to Kafka events, cutting cascading incident frequency 36%.
- Implemented idempotency, circuit breakers, and distributed tracing, reducing mean time to recovery from 74 to 29 minutes without customer-facing service disruption.
- Reviewed architecture and mentored eight engineers, increasing production-readiness compliance from 71% to 95%.
- Defined service-level objectives and error budgets for nine services, improving reliability investment decisions across the group for the primary on-call rotation.
- Defined service-level objectives and error-budget reviews for eight APIs, reducing repeat severity-one incidents 29% year over year across critical service paths.

Backend Developer Stripe, San Francisco, CA

Apr 2018 - May 2021

- Built versioned REST APIs for dispute workflows handling \$2.1B in annual transaction value with zero material reconciliation gaps under sustained production load.
- Optimized PostgreSQL indexes and partitioning for 11TB of records, reducing batch settlement time 51%.
- Created canary deployment and rollback automation that cut change-failure rate from 9.4% to 3.1%.
- Partnered with Security to add scoped authorization and audit trails for 230 enterprise integrations.
- Introduced consumer-driven contract tests for eight services, reducing integration failures after deployment 33%.

Software Engineer Datadog, New York, NY

Jul 2015 - Mar 2018

- Developed Go ingestion services handling 1.4M metrics per second while reducing dropped events 63%.
- Built schema validation and dead-letter processing that cut customer data incidents 28%.
- Added service-level dashboards and alerts, improving on-call detection time 45% across three teams.
- Reworked queue batching and memory controls, lowering ingestion infrastructure cost 19% at unchanged throughput.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Developer - Associate | Confluent Certified Developer for Apache Kafka | Certified Kubernetes Application Developer