JULIAN MERCER

SENIOR BACKEND DEVELOPER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Backend Developer with 9+ years designing distributed services, data models, and APIs that stay fast and dependable at scale. Leads design reviews, improves reliability, and mentors engineers while keeping systems simple enough to operate.

CORE SKILLS

Distributed systems | API design | Go | Java | Python | PostgreSQL | Kafka | Redis | Kubernetes | Observability | Load testing | System design | SLOs | Mentoring

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Backend Developer Jan 2024 - Present
Uber, San Francisco, CA

- Designed a Go and Kafka event pipeline for trip receipts handling 4M events daily, with 99.95% delivery success.
- Led a PostgreSQL sharding migration for a 2TB table, completing cutover with under four minutes of write unavailability.
- Introduced SLOs and error-budget alerts for six services, reducing paging incidents 33% over two quarters.
- Mentored three engineers and ran weekly design reviews, improving clarity of API contracts across the team and shortening review turnaround.

Backend Developer Apr 2022 - Dec 2023

- Reduced p99 API latency on a pricing service from 480 to 210 milliseconds through caching and query batching.
- Designed idempotent event consumers on Kafka, eliminating duplicate trip-processing incidents across three downstream services.
- Added load tests and capacity dashboards for a dispatch-adjacent service, giving the team two weeks of warning before traffic peaks.

Backend Developer Jun 2019 - Mar 2022
DoorDash, San Francisco, CA

- Built order-routing APIs in Java and Spring, supporting 30% order-volume growth without adding infrastructure nodes.
- Implemented idempotent retry logic for payment calls, eliminating duplicate charge incidents in the following year.
- Moved batch jobs to a queue-based worker design, shrinking nightly processing time from five hours to ninety minutes.
- Led a monolith extraction of the order-tracking module into a standalone service, improving deploy frequency from weekly to daily.

Software Engineer Aug 2017 - May 2019
Yelp, San Francisco, CA

- Developed review-ranking services in Python, improving cache hit rates from 71% to 89% through key redesign.
- Upgraded REST endpoints with versioning and schema validation, lowering client integration errors 26%.
- Participated in on-call rotation and wrote postmortems that led to four preventative reliability fixes.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Computer Science, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate | Certified Kubernetes Application Developer (CKAD)