

Software Engineer | Advocate | Inclusive by Design

Vlad E. Wolanyk

Toronto, Ontario – Canada

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I build software I'm genuinely invested in — to benefit people while continually learning and challenging myself. I bring a radically inclusive lens to everything I do and thrive where critical analysis and creative implementation intersect.

Technical Toolbox

Languages & Frameworks: Ruby, Rails, JavaScript, React, Vue, TypeScript, Apollo, Elixir, Phoenix

APIs & Data: REST, GraphQL, OpenAPI, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ, Kafka, Sidekiq, Redis

Infrastructure & Observability: AWS, Grafana, Kibana, GitLab, Sentry, Docker, Heroku, CircleCI, Buildkite, Datadog

AI Tools & Integrations: GitLab Duo, Claude, Claude Code, Jupyter Notebooks, Twilio, Sendgrid, Nylas, Salesforce

Software Engineering Experience

GitLab

May 2024 – Present

Backend Software Engineer, Verify::Pipeline Execution → API Platform

Remote

Backend engineer building CI/CD pipeline execution reliability and API platform infrastructure for REST and GraphQL.

- Contributed to a platform initiative to standardize and document GitLab's REST API layer, including static linters, failure response inference, and a custom gem to convert Grape APIs to OpenAPI 3 spec
- Co-launched the GitLab REST API Documentation site — OpenAPI 3.0, complete API coverage, and live API testing at api.gitlab.com/rest
- Mitigated security threats and contributed to ongoing API hardening — including disabling GraphQL introspection in production while preserving the public GraphiQL Explorer, and securing routes against potential DDoS exploitation
- Implemented high-churn GraphQL subscriptions for real-time CI/CD pipeline and job status updates, including authorization, trigger behaviour, and feature-flagged rollout
- Improved CI/CD pipeline reliability across merge trains, pipeline scheduling, and lookup performance

Lillio

Jan 2020 – May 2024

Senior Software Engineer, 2 terms of employment

Toronto, Canada/Remote

- Co-led GraphQL implementation from the ground up, migrating from Rails controller/view patterns, including a custom pagination solution, schema management, and authentication, becoming the team's subject matter expert, mentoring colleagues on GraphQL best practices
- Led planning and execution of features and API integrations across a multi-tenant Rails platform serving administrators, teachers, and families
- Fostered inclusive engineering culture through interdepartmental collaboration, mentorship, and team building
- Maintained high code quality through code reviews, on-call support, testing, and documentation

Majority Labs

April 2021 – Sept 2021

Software Engineer

Canada/Remote

Mission-driven startup building digital tools for advocacy organizations and grassroots campaigns

- Built full-stack features on a Rails/React platform including CRM workflows, phone dialers, and integrations with Twilio, Nylas, and Sendgrid
- Collaborated with stakeholders, followed agile practices, and maintained error monitoring and documentation

PagerDuty

Software Engineer

2019

Toronto, Canada

- Maintained and developed full-stack microservices powering the event ingestion pipeline, including private and public APIs for incident response rule management
- Contributed to project planning, test coverage, documentation, and on-call support in a high-availability distributed system

Homestars

Software Engineer

2017 – 2019

Toronto, Canada

- Built a new RESTful Rails API service consumed by a legacy monolith, mobile, and admin-console applications, contributing to project planning and technical decisions
- Integrated external services including Elasticsearch, Salesforce, Twilio, Sendgrid, AWS, and New Relic to support core business logic
- Contributed to data stewardship initiatives, policy development, and peer onboarding support

Other Experience & Education

Sherbourne Health Center

Community Resource Worker

2003 – 2016

Toronto, Canada

- Provided crisis intervention, counselling, and advocacy in a multidisciplinary community health setting
- Developed, implemented, and evaluated community programs and resources for people facing barriers to accessing health care
- Designed and facilitated trainings and developed resources on inclusive health care practices

UFCW Local 175

Lead Union Steward

2008 – 2016

Ontario, Canada

- Labour Management & Negotiation Committees
- Member of the Year Award

InsideOut Film Festival

Volunteer Programmer

Curated Trans film programming

Toronto

Community Organizations

Contract & Volunteer Web Developer

Built web projects for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Indigenous and Queer community organizations, seniors wellness programs and local artists

Canada

General Assembly (Bitmaker)

Full Stack Web Development, Ruby on Rails immersive program

2017

Toronto, Canada

Simon Fraser University

Film Studies & Gender Studies

Vancouver, Canada

Other Training: Mediation, Crisis Intervention, Anti-Oppression

Fun Facts

- I am a bit of a cinephile and a couple of my own short films have screened at festivals around the world
- I love outdoor adventures and go on at least one backcountry canoe trip every year — a few years ago I did an 11-day trip down the Yukon River
- I recently sold my motorcycle but have been riding since I was a teenager
- I have been an active member of the queer and trans communities for many years through my work, art, and activism