

BEN ZHAO

Software Developer

@ben.zhao@benzhao.dev

📞 639-997-9426

🌐 <https://benzhao.dev>

🌐 [benzhaodev](#)

🌐 [wenbenz](#)

📍 Montréal

EXPERIENCE

Okta

Software Engineer I/II

📅 Jan 2021 - Ongoing

📍 Remote

- Develop Okta's directory to securely handle intense loads against billions of users and groups which enables Okta to serve as the world's identity provider.
- Analyzed and replaced slow running SQL queries for batch jobs taking days to run, leading to a 1000x reduction in batch job turnaround time which improved customer experience.
- Redesigned relations between SQL tables to avoid excessive table joins which reduced lookup times by 100x.
- Increase developer productivity by moving code out of monolithic code-base towards a micro-service architecture, thereby reducing time spent in CI by 20x.
- Developed POC for system of records to classify users and prevent abuse of reduced price models, recovering millions of dollars in recurring revenue.
- Communicated with stakeholders to rapidly ship new features as part of a security initiative to enhance the baseline security for all customers.
- Prevented exploits and unauthorized data access by enhancing expression validation and isolating evaluation of user-supplied logic in Okta Expression Language.
- Investigated and resolved urgent customer issues to maximize customer value, contributing to positive customer relations and retention.
- Reduce system load by implementing reactive/asynchronous development patterns to maximize hardware resource utilization.

Okta

Software Engineering Intern

📅 May 2020 - Aug 2020

📍 Remote

- Built pipelines to clean, transform, and load data into analytics databases used in creating threat detection models.
- Secured customers by adding new data features for consideration in threat detection model to increase fidelity in identifying threat actors.

Arctic Wolf Networks

Software Engineering Intern

📅 Sept 2019 - Dec 2019

📍 Waterloo

- Developed linux agents to monitor endpoint activity, detect anomalous behavior, and quarantine devices.
- Deployed distributed computing clusters with shared resources to manage communications with endpoints, parse audit logs, and manage device quarantines.

SUMMARY

I'm a software developer with over 5 years of industry experience. I build enterprise **back-end systems** that are **reliable, scalable, and performant**. I have a strong foundation in **data structures and algorithms**, and experience with various languages, frameworks, and tools.

PROFICIENCIES

Communication Documentation

English French

Algorithms Data structures

System design Distributed systems

Concurrency Back-end

Functional programming OOP

AWS Docker CI/CD Git

Springboot Reactor Vertx

MySQL PostgreSQL Neo4J

Linux

Java Golang Python C C++

C# Scala

EDUCATION

University of Waterloo

B.CS. in Computer Science

📅 Sept 2016 - Dec 2020

Honours Computer Science
Combinatorics and Optimization Minor
Co-op Program

PERSONAL GOALS

- Improve at French
- Higher chess rating
- Learn to dance lindyhop and west coast swing