

LOKESH DEVNANI

lokesh.me

Backend / Data Infrastructure Engineer

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SUMMARY

Backend & Data Infrastructure Engineer with 7+ years of experience building analytics platforms and high-scale distributed systems. Proven track record leading major engineering initiatives and managing critical database clusters (Druid, PostgreSQL, MongoDB). Full-stack contributor, from frontend interfaces to complex backend pipelines. Currently returning to backend/data infrastructure roles after an intentional sabbatical.

SKILLS

Languages & Backend: Python | Go | Ruby | JavaScript | Kotlin | Java | Druid | SQL Server | Ruby on Rails | Dropwizard | Kafka | Sidekiq | PostgreSQL | MongoDB | Redis

Platform & Infrastructure: Kubernetes | Docker | GCP | Azure | Ansible | PromQ | RAG systems | dashboard/query generation | OLAP workloads

EXPERIENCE

CAREER SABBATICAL | Independent Projects, Teaching & Creative Practice | Sep 2024 - Present

Took an intentional sabbatical after 7+ years in startup engineering to explore independent projects, teaching, and creative practices. Used the period to deepen systems thinking, build creative-tech products, and prepare for a focused return to backend/data infrastructure engineering.

- MastiDB - Built an on-disk OLAP database engine from scratch in Python, covering storage primitives, analytical query execution, and database internals.
- dhol.dance - Built a creative-tech product that helps non-producers create music intuitively, replacing complex production workflows with a more accessible creation experience.
- raft-bare-bones - Built an educational Raft consensus implementation in Go to strengthen distributed systems fundamentals across leader election, log replication, and fault-tolerant coordination.

UDAAN.COM | Software Engineer | May 2020 - Sep 2024

Percept Insight / SaaS Analytics Platform (2023 - 2024)

- Founding team member for Percept Insight, an in-house product analytics solution that evolved into a SaaS offering.
- Spearheaded development of percept-interact, an LLM/RAG engine for creating dashboards using natural language.
- Built and owned query-constructor-service, a central Druid SQL query generation service powering slicing, dicing, funnels, cohorts, and analytics workflows.
- Optimized 4+ self-managed Druid clusters, improving latencies by 50% and reducing resource provisioning by 30% through ingestion and read-path improvements.

SQL Infrastructure (2021-2024)

- Led SQL infrastructure initiatives across Udaan, covering database reliability, observability, cost optimization, and developer enablement.
- Conceptualized and led the initiative for snorql, a diagnostics and monitoring tool for SQL databases and Udaan's first open-source project; drove adoption internally and externally through talks, videos, and blogs.
- Reduced SQL database monthly recurring expenses by 75% over two years, translating to millions in savings.

- Co-founded #SIGDB, an internal database special interest group focused on improving database practices across engineering teams.

Pharma Supply Chain (2020 - 2021)

- Built capabilities including RTV and partial RVP, driving systemization and adoption across warehouse, logistics, and procurement teams across 15+ facilities.
- Owned logistics service and operations console tailored for Pharma logistics workflows.

CLARISIGHTS | Software Engineer | Jul 2017 - Apr 2020

- Joined the founding team (<10 employees) to build a marketing/business intelligence platform with HTAP workloads for data-driven marketing teams. Worked across UI, product, data pipelines, infrastructure, and backend systems.
- Implemented infrastructure isolation for tenant separation across MongoDB clusters and executed live data migration with zero downtime.
- Tuned and managed master-slave PostgreSQL setup holding 4.5 TB+ data.
- Designed Kafka-based data pipelines for ingesting and dereferencing Adjust Analytics data into internal systems; built and deployed consumers/producers on Kubernetes.
- Built Ruby DSL for defining/removing MongoDB indexes in code and implemented ACLs across the platform.
- Built ETL pipelines for ad channels and analytics connectors; maintained ownership of the majority of Analytics Channel code.
- Built RESTful services using Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, and Redis, with RSpec/FactoryBot test coverage.
- Built real-time collaboration using Rails ActionCable/WebSockets and rewrote highly customizable marketing analytics dashboard v2, improving performance, UI clarity, and extensibility.

CELEBAL | Full Stack Developer, Intern | Nov 2016 - Feb 2017

- Built a prototype for a hyperlocal food delivery application using Go, Gorilla/mux, CockroachDB, NativeScript, and Angular2.

EDUCATION

Jaipur Engineering College & Research Center, Jaipur - B.Tech, Computer Science (2013-2017), CGPA: 7.75

TALKS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Squeezing the juice out of SQL server** - Rootconf (Jul 21, 2023): Discussed Udaan's infra cost optimisation journey focussing on SQL Server and CosmosDB, covering tips and learnings from cutting costs by 75%. [Slides](#) | [Link](#)
- **Productionizing Hello world** - InOut 6.0 (Oct 19, 2019): Explored productionising a simple service with Go, Docker, Kubernetes, and an observability stack. [Slides](#) | [Repo](#)
- **Udaan Hackathon**: Runner up.