Florian Benz

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My passion is to foster a great engineering culture and help others grow. I have led and grown engineering teams, collaborated with various external partners, and evaluated and established new technologies. Sharing knowledge via documentation, presentations, and mentoring has been an important part of my work.

Work Experience

07/2022 PRESENT	**Scalable GmbH**	*VP Engineering*

- Driving overall engineering topics from the CTO office

07/2021 06/2022	**Scalable GmbH**	*Head of Engineering*

- Engineering Lead for the Broker Scaling Tribe
- Ensuring a scalable, reliable, and operationally efficient broker platform
- Driving company-wide engineering iniatives
- Growing and establishing new engineering teams

01/2020 06/2021	**Scalable GmbH**	*Chapter Lead*

- Backend Lead for Scalable's B2C products: the broker and wealth management offers
- Led 30+ backend engineers across 8 teams
- Built a new competitive broker offering from scratch
- Technologies: Kotlin, Spring Boot, AWS, Lambda, DynamoDB, Kinesis, Redis

10/2017 12/2019	**Scalable GmbH**	*Engineering Team Lead*

- Led a team of up to 4 engineers
- Built an API-based robo advisor for Openbank (2018)
- Launched B2C savings account in collaboration with Raisin (2019)
- Technologies: Kotlin, Java, Spring Boot, AWS, Terraform

01/2015 09/2017	**Scalable GmbH**	*Software Engineer*

- As the first employee, I laid the foundations for the development processes and technology
- Launched the B2C wealth management in Germany (2015) and the UK (2016)
- Built an integration with ING Germany (2017)
- Technologies: Java, Spring Boot, AWS, MySQL, JavaScript

05/2013 12/2014	**Mercateo Services GmbH**	*Software Engineer*

- Germany-based e-procurement platform
- Full-stack developer working on the shop and catalog-based features
- Member of the internal testing and frontend initiatives
- Technologies: Java, Cassandra, JavaScript, AngularJS

2011	**SAP AG**	*Intern*

- Worked 7 weeks at the Custom Development division in St. Ingbert
- Managed an internal project and developed a prototype for it
- Technologies: Java, JavaScript

2011	**Google Switzerland GmbH**	*Software Engineering Intern*

- Worked 15 weeks as a part of the GMail Team at the Zurich office
- Maintained the Closure Stylesheets project that is now open source
- Technologies: Java, CSS3

2009 - 2011	**Miaplaza Inc.**	*Software Engineer/Consultant*

- California-based Web 2.0 company (social networking, edutainment platform)
- Specified, implemented, and tested new features throughout the stack
- Technologies: C#, JavaScript, Flash (ActionScript), PostgreSQL

2009 - 2012	**Saarland University**	*Tutor*

- Led tutorial groups (15+ students) for three courses for computer science undergraduates as well as one course for graduates

Education

2011 - 2013	**Saarland University**, Germany (**M.Sc. Computer Science**) Final grade 1.0 (**GPA 4.0/4.0**)
2008 - 2011	**Saarland University**, Germany (B.Sc. Computer Science) Final grade 1.4 (GPA 3.6/4.0)
1998 - 2007	St.-Matthias-Gymnasium Gerolstein, Germany (high school) **Abitur 1.3** (high school diploma, 731/840, **Valedictorian**)

Awards and Achievements

2013	**Günter Hotz Medal** • Recognition of outstanding professional performance for graduates of the Master's program
2006, 2008	**German National Computer Science Competition** • Germany's largest computer science competition (1,000+ competitors per year) • The competition consists of three rounds and problems are taken from different fields (e.g. algorithms, and theoretical computer science) • **Finalist** (i.e. top 28) in 2006 and 2008, **Award for Best Team Player** (2006)

Scholarships

2013	**Programming Languages Mentoring Workshop Scholarship** • Travel scholarship for the workshop and POPL 2013 conference
2011 - 2013	**Saarbrücken Graduate School of Computer Science** • Full scholarship
2009 - 2011	**Honors Program for Computer Science undergraduates** • Top 5% of all computer science undergraduates
2009 - 2010	**Awarded Exemption from Tuition Fees** • Top 5% of all computer science students

Publications

2013	**An Effective Heuristic for the Smallest Grammar Problem** F. Benz and T. Kötzing. GECCO '13: Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation
2012	**A Dynamic Program Analysis to find Floating-Point Accuracy Problems** F. Benz, A. Hildebrandt, and S. Hack. PLDI '12: Proceedings of the 2012 ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation

Open Source Projects

2016 - PRESENT	**Spring Auto REST Docs** Spring REST Docs extension that helps create beautiful API documentation with negligible overhead Joint effort with Juraj Misur, 250+ GitHub stars

Conference Talks

2017	**Introducing Spring Auto REST Docs** Presented the open source project at Spring I/O in Barcelona
2012	**A Dynamic Program Analysis to find Floating-Point Accuracy Problems** Presented the paper at PLDI in Beijing