# Stephen C. Neptune

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## SUMMARY

Senior Full Stack Engineer with 9 years of extensive experience in project leadership, stakeholder interfacing, scalable software deployment, technical problem-solving, design and iteration. Proven track record in solving complex engineering problems and building innovative solutions. I would like to use use my technical expertise and leadership skills to build, test and deploy the right products for the right people.

## EXPERIENCE

### Senior Full Stack Engineer | Guitar Center Company

April 2023 - Present, Westlake Village, CA

- Developed a crucial retail-to-digital service component for the music lessons business, successfully deployed to 560 locations within Guitar Center and Music & Arts stores nationwide.
- Developed multiple server-less backend APIs using AWS Lambda,  ElasticSearch, DynamoDb and that scaled on demand and actively reported business critical metrics about student retention data, learning success and real-time note playing accuracy.
- Improved on-boarding process for new developers by creating key documentation of system processes.  Also was part of a steering committee on git usage, CI deployment, and API design.
- Improved continuous integration efficiency by reducing build times from 25 minutes to 12 minutes through software architecture enhancements.

### Technical Lead | Soundwide (Native Instruments)

September 2018 - Present, Los Angeles, CA

- Stack used: Node, TypeScript, React, Redux, GraphQL, Electron, Jest Testing, Protobuf, Postgres, Redis, Github CI, Google Cloud Provider,  AWS Lambda, Microservice Architecture, Docker.
- Technical lead on the development of Native Access 2; an software management tool for music production products used by over half a million users.
- Developed customer retention and A/B tested acquisition flows for Sounds.com, an audio loop and samples marketplace subscription service, which lead to a 16% increase in month over month paid plan conversions.
- Championed A11y and ARIA accessibility practices within the team; participated and iterated on feedback from visually impaired user sessions; all in efforts to meet the company's OKR of a more accessible user journey.
- Helped grow the engineering staff by leading technical discussions, mentoring junior developers and documenting team processes.
- Improved the application release process by orchestrating release pipelines for auto updates and nightly "canary" builds. Introduced new features to select stakeholders with alpha and beta releases pipelines as well.
- Implemented a combination of TypeScript type checking and Jest unit tests, to test and deploy reliable, maintainable  code. Increased TypeScript coverage by 80% and reduced QA time during releases by 1-2 release days, through extensive unit testing suite.

### Senior Full Stack Engineer | AwesomenessTV (CBS Viacom)

October 2015 - July 2018, Santa Monica, CA

- Stack used: Python, Ruby, Ruby on Rails, Cucumber Testing, JavaScript, React, Redux, Redis, Postgres, AWS Lambda, Redshift, Athena, S3, Microservices, Docker.
- As a Full Stack Engineer, built a Content Catalog video showroom to demo the portfolio of video and video-related assets in a client-facing experience. This project helped secure a $20 million content distribution deal.
- Improved a Talent CRM web application that reported on over 50,000 social media influencers' performance through data import automation with Python and Social media APIs.
- Developed a multichannel "data lake" that allowed analysts to compare media content performance metrics varied across various media distribution markets using server-less and managed services such as AWS Lambda, Redshift, Athena, and S3.
- Created organization-wide best practices for QA and automated testing, streamlining the process of end to end UI testing.
- Collaborated with designers to define new features, including technical specifications and feasibility, resulting in better sales reporting and data analytics for content programmers. Improved the existing web application's usability, scalability, and performance by applying the latest React Hooks and Redux technology stack.

### Software Engineer | CheriMedia
September 2013 - August 2015, Hollywood, CA
- Stack used: PHP, JavaScript, Angular, React, Nginx, Varnish, WordPress, MySQL.
- Expanded the reach and availability of 3 online music publications (BattleRap.com, Roughstock.com, HiphopDX.com) with combined readership of approximately 2 million monthly readers.
- Unified all publications CMS backends to WordPress, and served high traffic pages in a responsive and scalable manner using server caching modules Varnish and switching web applications to serve from Nginx.
- Built custom responsive CSS parallax editorial features, WordPress plugins to manage hero image carousels and content, full site ad takeovers and React powered "Reddit" style comment moderation system (inbound comments appear up instantly to poster, but all comments still require administrative moderation to display publicly).
- Ran a beat-making contest with user submitted content from 8,000 users, features included voting, fail-safes to prevent multiple submissions of content, and a screening process for content submissions to check for copyrighted content.

## PROJECTS
### GreenRecs | HowlerMedia
June 2013 - August 2014
- Stack used: PHP, WordPress, Laravel, JavaScript, websockets, STUN/TURN, .
- Implemented a highly secure administrative system for telehealth appointment scheduling and storing medical records for medical professionals. Ensured compliance with HIPAA data security regulations.
- Built a PHP Laravel-based administrative "backoffice" with a relational database that allowed medical professionals to respond to client appointments, pull up confidential medical records, and set predefined working hours for telehealth appointments. Conducted user requirements gathering and database design.
- Implemented a STUN/TURN video conferencing server in PHP to allow for secure and confidential telehealth consultations, this increased patients service satisfaction by 40% and allowed professionals to increase visitations by 30% week over week.

## EDUCATION
### Bachelor of the Arts, History | California State University Fullerton
Fullerton, CA, 2010

## OTHER SKILLS
Team Process Management, Project Leadership, Technical Problem Solving, Mentorship, Coaching, Product Development, Feature Discovery, Extensive Living Documentation, Behavioral Driven Development, Iterative Design, Active Listening