

CHUREN (CHU) SHAO

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WORK HISTORY

Affirm - Staff Software Engineer

(Mar 2021 - Current)

- Tech lead on the pricing foundations team, providing support to merchants on financing configurations for checkout.
- Manage roadmaps and work closely with product and cross functional teams in defining and prioritizing features.
- Led discussions and created north star goals of pricing foundations for interfaces, scalability, and extensibility.
- Architected the core pricing configuration bundle system that lead a performance boost of over 100x.
- Built and launched dynamic experimentation of pricing configurations for all merchants.
- Took over and completed a 4 year migration that moved merchant pricing off of a monolith and onto its own service.
- Defined and decoupled key pricing domain RPC endpoints from other systems and created internal SLAs.

Udemy - Senior Staff Software Engineer

(Jan 2015–Feb 2021) (Mar 2017–Feb 2019 Senior Software Engineer)

- Tech lead on the pricing team supporting growth marketing, pricing, and discounts.
- Led discussions and worked with stakeholders on translating product requirements into technical design documents.
- Designed, delegated, and worked closely with other engineers on launching a new subscription platform.
- Architected a pricing engine to support dynamic price strategies for all courses, generating 8-10% revenue lift.
- Worked on a targeting system that can target any attribute of any user utilizing a bespoke DB on top of Redis
- Redesigned the instructor coupon creation page in React to be asynchronous and to work with the pricing engine.
- Mentored interns and lead design discussions in structuring a dynamic Google Adwords bid modifier platform.
- Designed and implemented a fully integrated and scalable affiliate network framework for on-boarding affiliates.
- Implemented a side project that scaled In App Purchases on iOS and Android from 500 courses to over 150,000 courses.
- Unified currency formatting between all systems for all supported international currencies and locale.
- Shipped numerous internal tools to support consumer marketing, business development, and support teams.
- Migrated legacy PHP and Javascript code to Django and Angular with over 95% test coverage.

Georgia Institute of Technology - OMSCS 6460 TA

(Jan 2018–Aug 2019)

- TA For Education Technology, mentoring ~20 students per semester in delivering a project that relates to EdTech.
- Discussed and modified homework assignments to improve student readiness in reading publications and journals.
- Facilitate growth of students in research and applications of research in projects.

CBS Interactive - Software Engineer

(Jun 2013–Jan 2015) (Jun 2013–Sept 2013 Software Engineer Intern)

- Replatformed B2B websites with 23 million monthly views, including ZDNet, Smartplanet, and TechRepublic.
- Acted as west coast point of contact for managing deploys, fixing blockers, and running data migrations.
- Coded in various industry standard languages, including Symfony2 PHP, Twig, HTML5, and Javascript.
- Extended and optimized APIs through Solr endpoints instead of MySQL DB calls to speed up and scale responses.
- Worked with a global team, answering questions and managing projects with Singapore and UK.
- Gained experience in managing and fixing bugs, optimizing Solr search indexer, and working on a full web stack.

UC San Diego - COGS 121 Tutor

(Mar 2014–Jun 2014)

- Technical tutor for Human Computer Interaction Programming Studio; Created examples and boilerplates.
- Wrote Express webapps that interact with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr API.
- Answered technical questions, help set up environments, and led discussions in teaching Node.js, Oauth, d3.js.

BlueHornet/Digital River - Software Engineer Intern

(Jun 2012–Sept 2012)

- Summer internship focused on adding a custom number field for utilization in the Blue Hornet email application.
- Programmed in PHP and worked with Zend framework, front-end UI, and Oracle 11g Database.
- Implemented a feature that is used to send personalized data to millions of subscribers.

Ocean Observatories Initiative - Systems and Network Support

(Jun 2011–Jun 2013)

- Managed a network of over 50 different virtual servers through monitoring tools and Python/Ruby/shell scripting.
- Worked with various levels of systems operations including hardware diagnosis and hypervisor management.

PUBLICATIONS

Enrico Tanuwidjaja, Derek Huynh, Kirsten Koa, Calvin Nguyen, **Churen Shao**, Patrick Torbett, Colleen Emmenegger, and Nadir Weibel. Chroma: A Wearable Augmented-Reality Solution for Color-Blindness. In *Proceedings of Ubicomp 2014, ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing*, ACM, New York, NY, USA, 799-810.

Nominated for Best Paper in Assistive Devices at Ubicomp 2014

EDUCATION

UC San Diego - Computer Science B.S. • June 2014

Georgia Institute of Technology - Computer Science M.S. • December 2019