

Katharina Fey

SOFTWARE ENGINEER · SYSTEMS ARCHITECT

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Personal motto: xkcd.com/1495

Summary

I have worked in the tech industry for over a decade and have gathered a variety of experience across a wide field of different systems, languages, and industries, including 8+ years with **Rust**, 5+ years with **NixOS**, and 5+ years of **C/C++**. I have also worked, professionally or personally with **Java** (the **OpenJVM** in particular), **Raku** (Perl 6), **Ruby**, **Python**, and **Zig**. I also have some experience designing digital circuits and PCBs (using **KiCAD**) and bringing a product to market (working with assembly houses, parts acquisition, setting up hardware testing infrastructure, etc).

I have a background in active open source project contributions, including the Rust **Community Team** and the **CLI Working Group** from 2017 – 2020, as well as serving on the NixOS **RFC Steering committee** from 2020 – 2023.

I work on a distributed networking research project called **Irdest**, a delay tolerant, decentralised userspace routing framework and I have mentored the Google Summer of Code twice as part of Freifunk.

I am comfortable working with large code bases and distributed teams, learn new systems quickly and strive to solve problems efficiently and maintainably. The goal is a simple, elegant, and concise solution to any problem.

I read research papers for fun. In my free time I enjoy making electronic music, writing stories, working on video games, and taking care of plants. I speak German and English fluently, and am conversational in French.

Experience

Nyantec GmbH

SENIOR ENGINEER

Berlin, Germany

November 2024 – current

- Work on modernising a railway track-interlocking control system (**CoreShield**).
- Used technologies: Rust, Python, C++, Yocto, and Nix.
- Specifics of the work are covered under an NDA.

Fly.io

SENIOR SOFTWARE / INFRAOPS ENGINEER

Remote, Consultant

December 2023 – May 2024

- Develop, tune, and maintain the distributed gossip sqlite database **corrosion**.
- Coordinate across different teams to document existing corrosion cluster behaviour and processes.
- Maintain Fly.io infrastructure and handle outages and incidents around the corrosion database cluster.

Determinate Systems Inc.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Remote, Consultant

October 2022 – February 2023

- Writing NixOS documentation specific to explaining the new flakes system.
- Testing and development of a Rust Nix installer

Ockam Inc.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ARCHITECT

Remote, Consultant

Feb 2021 – August 2022

- Building e2e encrypted and mutually authenticated communication protocols and libraries for resource constrained IoT devices.
- Large scale platform architecture and API design in the Rust language.
- Building actor based cryptographic and messaging capability protocols.

Freelance Consultant

SOFTWARE RESEARCHER

Berlin, Germany

Jul 2019 – Dec 2024

- Teaching NixOS principles and tooling at Unikie Oy and Mercury Inc for teams looking to solve virtualisation and system integration challenges.
- Irdest NLnet grant to create a delay tolerant, distributed packet routing layer.
- Mentor Google Summer of Code and Outreachy programs as part of the Irdest research project.
- Building a network-transparent actor framework at ockam.io for low power IoT devices.
- System architect for lacewing's Kubernetes cloud infrastructure.
- Development and maintenance for prisma of the Rust migration generator library *barrel*.
- Preparing and teaching workshop for nyantec on the Nix system expression language, and its ecosystem.

Asquera GmbH

SOFTWARE CONSULTANT

[Berlin, Germany](#)

Mar 2018 – Jun 2019

- End-of-life maintenance of a large in-production Ruby on Rails application and associated infrastructure.
- Preparing and teaching multi-day workshops for the Rust systems programming language.
- Custom Rust tooling (*svd2rust*) for embedded development and development of a board support library.
- Application server to manage embedded sensor boards and associated protobuf client API.
- High-performance GraphQL parser and query optimiser backend for prisma.io.
- Representing the company and Rust community at conferences through talks on FFI and async development.

Fastforward Imaging GmbH

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER & SYSTEMS ARCHITECT

[Berlin, Germany](#)

2015 – 2017

- Development and maintenance of automated, industrial photography studios.
- Technical roadmapping and managing a small team to create and deploy new features in on-site production settings.
- Working with clients to integrate feedback on the platform into the mainline product.

Botspot GmbH

FREELANCE SOFTWARE ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT

[Berlin, Germany](#)

2016

- Implementation of low-latency userspace driver for embedded high-performance Sony cameras in 3D scanning application.
- Coordinating architectural decisions to ensure reliability and maintainability of future software stack.

Google Summer of Code

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

[Berlin, Germany](#)

Summer 2016

- Participating in the annual Google Summer of Code program as part of Freifunk Berlin.
- Designing and implementing a cryptography module for a mesh-wifi network application called "qaul.net".

Motioncoding

FREELANCE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

[Freiburg, Germany](#)

2013

- Working on front-end Android applications in Java for the NovaQ Android-TV-Stick.
- Participating in UI design workflow for the NovaQ TV interface.

Albert-Ludwigs-University (Institute of Psychology)

NETWORK SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

[Freiburg, Germany](#)

2011 – 2013

- Maintenance and expansion of the Windows XP (later 7) IT-Infrastructure.
- Technical end-user support for researchers of the clinical institute for psychology.