

# Brandon Willett

## Education

---

### UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

- ◇ Graduated in 2018
- ◇ B.S. in Computer Science (3.82)
- ◇ B.A. in Mathematics (3.80)

## Skills

---

### BACKEND

- ◇ Go, Python, Java, Scala, Javascript
- ◇ Web Frameworks (Django, Flask, Rails)
- ◇ Streaming Pipelines (Kafka)
- ◇ Workflow Platforms (Airflow, Luigi)
- ◇ Transactional Databases (Postgres, Cass)
- ◇ Analytical Databases
- ◇ Caches (Memcached, Redis)

### PLATFORM

- ◇ Version Control (Git)
- ◇ CI/CD (Github Actions, Gitlab)
- ◇ Telemetry (Prometheus, Datadog)
- ◇ Containerization (Docker, Containerd)
- ◇ Build Tools (Rake, Bazel)
- ◇ Infra as Code (CF, Terraform)
- ◇ Service Discovery (DNS, Consul, Envoy)
- ◇ Load Balancers (L4, L7)
- ◇ Reverse Proxies (NGINX, HAProxy)

### CLOUD

- ◇ AWS (ALB, NLB, EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda)
- ◇ GCP (GLB, GCE, GCS, Cloud SQL)
- ◇ Azure (ALB, VMSS, ABS)
- ◇ Kubernetes (ask me about any resource)

A versatile developer with experience in large-scale data processing, API serving, and cloud infrastrucuring. A healthy software backend is no good without a healthy social backend, and I work hard to do right by both the computers and the people.

☎ +1 203 258 2721  
✉ [brandon@willett.io](mailto:brandon@willett.io)

## Experience

---

### DATADOG

Site Reliability Engineer

*New York, NY*

May 2020 – Jun 2023

- ◇ Worked in network edge and metrics platform to build out new systems, from RFC through to on-call, and maintain existing ones
- ◇ Kicked off several reliability initiatives, including founding a group to lead weekly metrics-wide incident learnings, unified SLI tracking, and running personally many production-readiness reviews
- ◇ Straddled platform & product, identifying highest-leverage improvements (to Go code, CI, etc) and independently got them prioritized + done
- ◇ Completed adoption of the new Kubernetes platform in metrics, migrating some of Datadog's largest + most complicated services (the primary TSDB, the primary public LB) without downtime
- ◇ Identified, and saw to completion, several cost-efficiency projects, like the improvement of pod resource limits and bin-packing
- ◇ Hosted architecture reviews and service deep-dives, to help new hires feel empowered (instead of confused) as quickly as possible

### ACTIONIQ

Distributed Systems Engineer

*New York, NY*

Jun 2018 – Apr 2020

- ◇ Designed, advocated for, and implemented the procedure for autoscaling query execution on EC2, reducing our AWS bill by more than 50%
- ◇ Drove scalability improvements for the OSS job scheduling platform Luigi, and contributed some of that back upstream
- ◇ Maintained the Prometheus cluster (later, Datadog) and led internal talks and workshops on best practices around metrics and observability
- ◇ Enabled dynamic configuration updates with Ansible
- ◇ Brought some of the first Terraform modules to AIQ, used them to build the first version of our streaming ingest platform using IaC

### EDU.CHAT

Software Engineering Intern

*New York, NY*

Jun 2017 – Aug 2017

- ◇ Developed and tested an NLP chatbot alongside 3 other developers
- ◇ Learned Python implementations for message passing, parallelization and task queue systems to distribute the workload (like Celery and Redis)