

Ben Borgers

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Website: benborgers.com

Blog: benborgers.com/posts (130+ technical blog posts)

GitHub: github.com/benborgers

Summary

- Spent two summers in high school as a software development intern at IBM Security; experience with numerous freelance clients and lots of just-for-fun side projects.
- Development experience using:
 - Frontend: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, TailwindCSS, React (Gatsby, Next.js, Remix), Vue
 - Mobile: Expo (React Native)
 - Backend: PHP and Laravel, Node.js (Express), C++, MySQL, MongoDB, Cloud Firestore
 - Other: Puppeteer, Linux, Git, AWS (Lambda, S3, DynamoDB, RDS)

Education

Tufts University

- Majoring in Computer Science
- Expected Graduation: 2025

Lexington High School

- GPA: 3.93, unweighted
- Graduation: 2021

Work Experience

Butttdown (Summer 2021 - present)

- Freelance frontend development using Vue for butttdown.email, an email newsletter app.
- Working mostly asynchronously in GitHub through Pull Requests and Issues, incorporating feedback about visual design, UX, and functionality.

Diyi (Summer 2020)

- Built a course registration site (diyiboston.com) for an online school as a solo freelancer.
- Site uses Laravel (PHP) and TailwindCSS, is hosted on AWS (Lambda + RDS through the Laravel Vapor deployment platform), and takes students' payments through Stripe Checkout.
- Users can be teachers, TAs, and students. The app deals with complex relationships due to the fact that a given user can be any of the three.

IBM Security Internship (Summer 2019, hired for return in Summer 2020)

- Worked on a team following Agile development.

- Created React components using IBM's Carbon Design System for a rewrite of their Guardium enterprise security offering; improved automated testing in Java using Selenium; audited for accessibility issues and fixed them both upstream in Carbon and in our product.

Rep.ly (Summer 2020)

- Freelance work for [Rep.ly](#), a Q&A platform tightly integrated with Twitter.
- Implemented new features using React, Framer Motion, Node.js, and MongoDB.
- Responded to detailed feedback on tweaking UI animations and matching designs from Figma.

Projects

opensheet (Fall 2021)

- Identified a need for a simple no-authentication-needed API for reading a Google Sheet's data after Google deprecated their old API.
- Updated my most popular blog post that explained the (now-deprecated) API with clear instructions on how to use my open-source replacement, which was written with Node.js and deployed through Vercel's serverless functions: github.com/benborgers/opensheet

War Room (Fall 2021)

- A shared to-do list app with college friends, that allows you to see and react to other people's completed tasks.
- Built using Laravel (PHP) and TailwindCSS and deployed to AWS using Laravel Vapor.
- A ton of fun to build! More backstory and details: benborgers.com/notes/war-room

Bagel Institute (Summer 2020, Summer 2021)

- A live-updating Laravel app that allows students to ask their professor questions anonymously during class.
- I designed this with lots of input from my dad, who's a college mathematics professor. He used it with large lecture sections to allow more students to feel comfortable asking questions.

Blocks (2019 - 2021)

- Built an app that allowed students to keep track of my high school's schedule after it moved to a confusing 6-day rotation (and later, a complicated COVID-necessitated cohort schedule).
- The 2019 - 2020 version was built with React; the 2020 - 2021 version with Laravel.
- 2,100 students and teachers used the app, which was around 85% of the school.
- Worked with the administration and principal to coordinate large schedule change rollouts.
- Ruffled off Chick-fil-A gift cards for a week; allowed people to send kind anonymous messages to each other for a week; sold merch and hand-delivered it to people's houses — lots of fun stories came from this.
- Learned what it was like to manage lots of feature requests from students and how to balance fun and utility in the app, while being mindful that thousands of students relied on it daily.