

# Thomas Breier

<https://thomas.breier.xyz> | {Last Name}{First Name}@gmail.com | Taiwan | Germany | USA

## EXPERIENCE

### Founding Software Engineer

October 2019 – Present

*Nexus Events*

*Palo Alto, CA, USA (remote from Taiwan/Germany)*

- First hire at pre-seed startup, responsible for engineering and product work to facilitate online networking by 1) evolving a legacy Ruby on Rails app and 2) creating an app in the new Zoom Apps ecosystem as one of the launch partners; work led to a successful investment seed round closed by the company
- Setting initial product direction by defining tasks, prioritizing efficiently, and creating specs and wireframes by incorporating user feedback, customer research, and aligning with business goals
- Designing and implementing backend APIs to efficiently analyze and aggregate user data
- Integrating various APIs: Spotify, Twilio, and Google to create a feature-rich user experience, Amplitude to enable product analytics, and various OAuth providers for easy login and data collection
- Modernized the legacy codebase through project that increase test coverage of models from 0% to 75% by introducing RSpec and Capybara, and also bringing in and managing talent to add React
- Hired and managed distributed initial engineering team, then interviewed and onboarded our CTO

### Freelance Software Engineering Consultant

September 2020 – January 2024

*StartX*

*Palo Alto, CA, USA (remote from Taiwan)*

- Led Engineering, Product & Project Management for the technical team of one of Silicon Valley's top accelerators, hired and onboarded new team members, created documentation for all important parts of the tech stack
- Upgraded and maintained the Ruby on Rails codebase while also implementing new feature requests

*MyMoneyKarma*

*Mountain View, CA, USA (remote from Taiwan)*

- Refactored existing backend application into microservices using the NestJS Node.js framework
- Designed and implemented new services to allow connecting to various external APIs through a unified interface

*Involved Productions*

*London, UK (remote from Taiwan/Germany)*

- Built a playlist generator for music labels "Anjunabeats" and "Anjunadeep": <https://playlist.anjunabeats.com>
- Created algorithm to recommend tracks by processing and comparing audio features via Spotify API

### Software Engineer

September 2014 – September 2019

*Affinity Hive*

*Palo Alto, CA, USA*

- Initially joined this Silicon Valley startup as intern in pre-seed stage before first line of code was written
- Used Ruby on Rails, MySQL, Redis, Resque, AWS, and jQuery to build new app prototypes and brought some to market, which led to several large B2B contracts and a successful company seed fundraising round
- Took responsibility for projects from idea to release by covering data modeling, system architecture, core algorithms, database optimization, user research, UI/UX design, and iterating based on user feedback
- Managed and selected interns in engineering and marketing, which improved their impact on the company
- Co-authored published Stanford research paper on unique UX of one of our apps with interesting social implications: *Founder Center: Enabling Access to Collective Social Capital*. (ACM CSCW 2017)
- Supported customer management and sales, which improved relationships and closed additional contracts

## EDUCATION

### Technische Universität München (TUM)

October 2011 – March 2016

*Informatics (Computer Science) B.Sc., Minor in Psychology / Human-Computer Interaction*

*Munich, Germany*

Overall GPA within top 3% of graduates (1.1), received 4 different scholarships awarded to exceptional students

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

August 2013 – May 2014

*Year Abroad*

*Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA*

Completed senior and graduate classes with GPA of 4.0 (best grade), including CS473 Fundamental Algorithms

## SKILLS

### Languages, Frameworks, etc.:

- Proficient: Ruby on Rails, MySQL/PostgreSQL
- Intermediate: AWS, Digital Ocean, JavaScript, Node.js, NestJS, jQuery, HTML/CSS/Bootstrap, Python, Git
- Familiar With: Docker, Bash, Android & iOS Development, Java, Swift, Haskell, C, AngularJS, LaTeX

### Other:

Sprint management, task prioritization, product development, user research, customer management