transportapi

RUBY BACKEND DEVELOPER

LOCATION

Remote or onsite in London or Sofia

TENURE OPTIONS

- Full time permanent position (highly preferable)
- Part time permanent position (e.g. 2 days per week)
- Three month full time contract, if interested in going permanent

WHO ARE WE?

TransportAPI is a rapidly growing investor financed startup currently expanding our dev team to meet demand for our data feeds and solutions in transport. Our platform has all of Britain's public transport timetables, live departures and routes along with performance indicators, fare data, widgets and dashboards. Our Enterprise services power the API backend providing core data supply for the mobile apps and websites for two of the top five transport operators in Britain, First Group and National Express, as well as Heathrow Airport. We also power the open transport data service funded by Future Cities Catapult. Around 3,500 developers have signed up on the platform including BT, Astra Zeneca, IKEA, Snowdrop, Transport Systems Catapult, Liveposter, Screenreach, ELGIN, Resonate, FWT, Trapeze, Grand Visual and the Universities of Warwick, Lancaster and South Wales.

HOW WE GOT HERE?

At TransportAPI we've done the bootstrapping... so you don't have to. We built a platform with the first open transport data (back in the day) and we've since sold services that leverage that platform and our skills. We've learned how to listen to our users, engineer platforms and services, and deliver and support technology. We're still learning how to plug transport data into the widest range of use cases, but we want to useful to everyone, so long may that continue.

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

Our roots are in the open data community and academia and we've spent lots of time campaigning to get the data we now use. We're now about growing our already sustainable business so that it makes money while also being open. We are not about creating a business built on restrictive licences to content. We are about creating services that add value to the data so our customers can deliver. Our job is to get hold of the data source, sort it out and deliver useful data feeds at scale. We want to avoid locking, closed data or derived data rights to provide services that can be remixed, re-invented and redistributed by our partners.

HOW AMBITIOUS ARE WE?

We only want to get the whole world's transport data into our service platform (we don't think small). We have started in the UK as that is where the most open data is right now but we want to expand our platform to all countries that open their transport data in time. We know that transport data will become embedded in everything and our platform will provide the feeds to power cool apps and services. We hope this will continue to drive a wave of innovation around travel information, benefiting both travellers and operators. So, the plan is global domination by making ourselves indispensable to transport operators, transport hubs, app developers, hyper-local media, local authorities, regulators, campaigners and well, basically, everyone.

WHAT WE ARE LIKE?

OK. There's no way to hide this. We are geeks with an ever so slight obsession with trains and buses. But we marry this with a deep insight into transportation businesses and commuter experience. We're all about delivery but know how to pivot if we need to. We practice agile development but the gravitational force of our platform always pulls us back to pragmatics. We have our tools of choice in Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL and Chef running on AWS but we develop in Go, Java, Objective C and Python when needed. That's us. Startup becoming global utility in ten years.

RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be part of the dev team developing core technology for transportapi.com, its API and related microservices. Specific responsibilities would include:

* Designing and developing new endpoints for the API
* Designing, implementing and using internal backend libraries
* Streamlining the import of static schedule data and live streaming data feeds
* Web service development and deployment

EXPERIENCE

ESSENTIAL

* Demonstrable experience of backend development, highly preferable in Ruby (Ruby on Rails experience a huge plus)
* Writing solid, clean, reusable, modular and well-tested code with clear and well-thought-out design
* Writing code collaboratively through Github pull requests, code reviews, code style guides, pair programming, etc.
* Experience in development of scalable web services and APIs reliant on large dynamic databases
* Parsing and analysing high volume data streams in realtime
* Data ETL

DESIRABLE

* RESTful API design and development experience with JSON
* A DevOps attitude: you write it, you deploy it
* Experience with IT automation frameworks such as Chef (or Puppet, etc.) and Continuous Delivery
* Experience with UK transport industry data for bus, train, tube: schedules & live feeds, TransX-change, the Network Rail data feeds, the National Rail Enquiries data feeds
* Database design & optimisation: ensuring the efficient and reliable running of database servers, preferably PostgreSQL
* System administration: administration of servers, systems and networks, with skills in optimising services, performance testing, etc.
* Web service architectures, including failover and load balancing
* Experience with running large deployments on AWS

- Experience in managing spatial data, conducting spatial analysis, and using GIS tools (ArcGIS, QGIS, POSTGIS)
- Experience in handling OpenStreetMap data
- Big data/NoSQL: Handling large volumes of data with NoSQL DBs such as MongoDB

ABILITIES AND SKILLS

ESSENTIAL

- The ability to be flexible and to take a team approach to work, working collaboratively with colleagues with a range of backgrounds and approaches
- Working in a distributed team: we're spread across several cities in three countries and take a very distributed approach to work but we also have physical offices and some of us see each f2f on a regular basis
- Taking initiative and ownership into identifying problems in the code and development processes and proposing solutions
- Ability to manage complex tasks associated with collaborative solution development
- Ability to manage workloads, solve problems and work independently
- A pragmatic mindset: write good code but meet deadlines as well

DESIRABLE

- Ability to represent the company and its projects externally