

ERIC ABRAHAMSEN

Pressure-loving Senior Engineer seeks customer-facing role solving real problems under difficult conditions

📍 Seattle, WA ✉ eric@ericabrahamsen.net 📞 (206) 698-5852 👤 [LinkedIn](#), [GitHub](#) 🗣 English, Mandarin Chinese

Python (Django, FastAPI, Numpy) | PostgreSQL | Typescript/React | AWS

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

🏠 Senior Backend Engineer

📅 Mar 2022 – Present

🏠 SWEE AI

- As Swee's **second technical hire**, I designed and built the AWS-based backend stack, starting from Figma sketches and ending with a mobile product with **thousands of paying users and \$300k in ARR**.
- Built pipelines for ingesting **terabytes of video** from IoT devices, using AWS Step Functions to orchestrate video editing and re-encoding using ffmpeg, and ML models for keypoint detection.
- Designed integrations between the Apple App Store, Stripe, and RevenueCat to coordinate revenue channels between multiple mobile and web clients.
- Designed and implemented a **full development and deploy environment** including multiple AWS accounts, CDK, CI/CD pipelines, containerized test environments, and observability through CloudWatch and QuickSight.
- Designed a multi-tier data caching system using DynamoDB, designed to allow our APIs to serve complex data views at **thousands of requests per second**.
- Combined Step Functions, SQS and PostgreSQL locking to ensure **exactly-once processing for concurrent data uploads**, designed to handle arbitrary spikes in load.
- Improved latency and accuracy in a Python-based OpenAI chatbot integration, increasing **user chatbot engagement by 30%**.
- Designed an innovative data correlation process using PostGIS and Bayesian probabilities to improve **user<->data correlation by 20%**.
- Interfaced directly with golf coaching professionals and users to **translate coaching psychology into user interface**.

🏠 Founder & Full Stack Engineer

📅 Oct 2007 – Present

🏠 Paper Republic

- Founded and built *Paper Republic*, a non-profit that is now the **leading online hub** for Chinese to English literary translation, used by editors, journalists and educators around the world.
- Designed a detailed schema to track Chinese literature translations and publications, now containing **tens of thousands of entries**.
- Our organizational model has been **emulated by other literary platforms** in multiple languages.

🏠 Open Source Contributions

📅 2008 – Present

🏠 Emacs

- Author of **several hundred commits** to the official Emacs repository
- **Maintainership of Gnus**, one of the oldest email/news client packages still in use.
- Led feature planning, managed bug reports, and collaborated with a long-standing user community to **modernize legacy codebases**.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Translator and Journalist

 **2008 – 2018**

- Published **novel and short-story collection translations** through a variety of publishing houses
- Translated **film subtitles** for independent and commercial Chinese cinema
- Published **short story translations** in venues such as *The New Yorker* and *Granta magazine*
- Published **cultural journalism** in *The New York Times*, *Foreign Policy* magazine, and *The International Herald Tribune*, among many other venues
- Given the **Special Book Award of China** in 2015

Educator

- **Designed and taught a course** on English literature and translation at the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute, a course that was **used as a template** for teaching translation in universities around China.
- **Twice led translation seminars** at the Chinese-English Translation Training Course, in conjunction with the British Center for Literary Translation.
- **Designed and ran professional training courses** for more than 100 editors from Chinese publishing houses as part of the Beijing Publishing Fellowship.

Education

University of Washington

B.A., International Studies – Jackson School of International Studies

Deep Springs College