

# Peter Torr Smith

## Senior Engineer, Product Technologist, Analyst, Delivery, Release

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### SKILLS BRIEF

- Full-stack ➤ Ruby, Rails ➤ DBs (PG, MySQL, Oracle) ➤ APIs, Data ➤ Mobile ➤ Async Jobs, Eventing/Kafka
- AWS/Other Cloud ➤ JS/TS ➤ React/Vue ➤ Node.js / Express ➤ HTML, CSS, Handlebars ➤ Bootstrap
- Git / Github / Gitlab / Bitbucket ➤ Pipelines and Release Management ➤ Hubspot APIs ➤ Stripe
- Architecture ➤ Wireframing / Flow / Design / UML ➤ Business & UX Analysis ➤ SaaS ➤ AI (Cursor/Claude)
- Project / Programme Delivery ➤ Product & Technology Ownership, Governance ➤ Agile Delivery & Tooling

### OVERVIEW

I enjoy people and technology, process and product strategy. This could be developing a product or enhancement, configuring a solution, eliciting and reflecting requirements & constraints, helping design great user experiences and application flow, problem analysis and resolution, and helping others learn. I love building, problem solving, planning and delivery, but mostly I enjoy working with and aligning tech and product people.

### EXPERIENCE

#### **JAVLN** - Senior full stack engineer. "Spearhead" team/tech lead. Release manager

April 2025 - present (Full time, mostly remote)

- Ruby on Rails 5>8, Rspec, Vue, Oracle RDS, AWS, Docker, Vue, OTEL, APIs, Playwright
- Leading a team of engineers and QA on new feature and support issue prioritisation, sprints
- Performance optimizations, Open Telemetry observability, new features, bug triage, fixes, deployments
- **Highlights:** Keeping the work flowing, Open Telemetry implementation, cross team collaboration,

#### **Flux Federation** - Senior Application, Data and API engineer - Team "Quokkas"

June 2023 - Jan 2025 (Full time contract, 100% remote)

- Ruby on Rails 7, Rspec, Playwright UI testing, MySQL RDS, AWS, Docker, SendGrid, ClickSend, Handlebars
- Async / Background processing with background jobs and event-sourcing (Kafka)
- Features, requirements, technical design, implementation, test coverage, deployments, pairing, mentoring
- Engineer on call, and performance and problem diagnosis, coordination and resolution.
- **Highlights:** OpenAPI based API development, performance analysis and resolution, Kafka, PlantUML

#### **AskYourTeam** - Senior Developer/Engineer

Apr 2022 - May 2023 (Full time, onsite and remote)

- Ruby on Rails 6/7, React, Rspec, Cypress, Postgres RDS/DynamoDB, JSONB, AWS, Infrastructure as Code
- Async / Background processing with Good Job/Lambda
- Feature leading, requirements, technical design, implementation, test coverage, deployments, pairing
- **Highlights:** Org structure, automated permissions, imports, multi-select demographics, Hubspot Integrations

#### **Culture Amp** - Analyst Developer Engineer "Performance Camp" - Scalability, Performance, Simplicity Focus

Mar 2021 - Feb 2022 (Full time contract, 100% remote)

- Ruby on Rails, Rspec, AWS & DevOps, Sidekiq/async, React, Typescript, DataDog, BuildKite, RDS/Dynamo
- Uncoupling product areas from monolithic application and architecture (domain extraction). Microservices.
- Addressing technical debt, performance issues and common platform elements/issues across multiple teams
- **Highlights:** Exports via RDS replica, performance enhancements, GDPR compliance. Technical debt and enhancements for UI/UX. Domain Driven Design platform rework. React and Lambda integration, Launch Darkly.

#### **Resn Digital** - Technical Director - Development, Infrastructure, Integration & Operations

Sept 2020 - Jan 2021 (Full time Contract / Freelance)

- Technology investigation and solution design, scoping and sizing - pre-sales, pre-development
- Development, Cloud Infrastructure & services admin, deployments and operations
- AWS - S3, EC2, CloudFront, ACM, Lambda, Route53, AWS Organizations, IAM, Docker, Git, BitBucket pipelines
- **Highlights:** Scoping, sizing, architecture for goodmeat.co, a Vue, ThreeJS & WebGL digital launch experience

**HireThings.com** - *Developer / CTO for application, platform & mobile-first upgrade (.co.nz / .com.au)*

Feb 2019 - Aug 2020 (Full time)

- Upgrade from Rails 2 to Rails 5. Shift and re-architect onto AWS platform services (Elastic Beanstalk, RDS, Elasticache, S3, Route53, EC2, VPC / Security Groups, SES, IAM, Certs). Mobile-first Bootstrap 4.5 front-end
- Intern mentoring / training, code reviews, approvals and merges

**Ministry of Social Development IT** - *Web, Mobile, UX and Agile Technologies Manager*

May 2011 - Sept 2018 (Contract and full time)

- Business Analyst, Agile PM - Ruby on Rails projects primarily. Web Team manager - programme and project scoping, costing, delivery. Project pipeline coordinator - getting projects ready, scoped, approved
- RFP evaluation and vendor selection, contracts, liaison. Agile Toolsets Design and Operations - SAFe, Atlassian Cloud Jira & Confluence
- Mobile & UX Capability Manager - mixing internal and external capabilities. MyMSD, MyStudylink.

**Catalyst IT** - *Business analyst / project manager / solution designer & dev / client liaison*

April 2009 - April 2011 (Full time)

- Client liaison, project scoping and solution design / options, RFPs, pre-sales
- Analyst / PM / co-dev for Drupal CMS, PHP, Moodle, and Ruby on Rails projects
- Facilitation, Testing, client support. TrueNet internal startup: UX & biz flow, web CMS build, logistics
- Development and solution configuration. Operations

**HireThings.com** - *Co-founder, CEO, CFO, Developer*

April 2006 - May 2009 (Full time)

- Start-up co-founder, team support and HR. Developer, analyst, testing, ops - Ruby on Rails / AJAX, UX, Wireframing, process design, solution co-design
- Summer of Tech (was Summer of Code) co-leadership

**eCentric and Interger** - *Analyst developer and DBA - web, mobile, legacy systems*

Dec 2000 - April 2006 (Full time)

- Delphi then .Net developer (C#, ASP.net). SQL Server DBA, .Net/SAP API developer (Farmers)
- Web apps, Web Services, Windows Apps and Services, Early mobile/WAP
- eCargo & dairy waste marketplaces, Electricity sector application.
- Onsite and offsite client technical support & development
- Inspiration & joy of working alongside founding Trade Me & AMR/Movac teams

**Ministry of Agriculture (MAF)** Jan 1994 - Sept 2000 (Full time) - *Business IT Projects/Ops manager > developer***EDUCATION, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS****Brilliant.org** - Python, AI, LLMs, Cryptocurrencies - more**AWS Developer Associate Certification** - *DVA-C02* - *Udemy, ACloudGuru, self-paced learning* 2023

- Covered most AWS services and best practices for developers. Cloud compute and serverless stacks.

**Udemy** - *Ruby on Rails Professional - Re-learning Rails* 2019

- Built [ptorrsmith.com](http://ptorrsmith.com) from scratch, Rails refresher and prep for HireThings upgrade.

**Enspirial Dev Academy** - *Modern web and mobile development bootcamp* Aug - Dec 2018 (Full time)

- HTML5, CSS3 & CSS Frameworks, Javascript backend (node.js / Express) and front-end (React / Redux).

**Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe)** - *foundation and in practice, - in-house and online* 2016 - 2018

- Enterprise application of SAFe with Jira, Confluence. Formal SAFe training, exams and certification 2017

**PRINCE2 & MSP - Managing Successful Programs** - *Foundation and Professional* 2011, 2015**Human-Centred Design** - *IDEO. Fieldwork programme building empathy/understanding of user needs* 2015**Better Business Cases (BBC)** - *Training, Enterprise representation, and exam - Foundation* 2013**Certified Scrum Master** - *agile planning, delivery and team support* 2011**Microsoft Certified DBA** - *SQL Server DBA certification* 2001 & 2006**Graduate Diploma - Information Sciences** - *Extramural and on-campus studies, Massey University* 2001**Bachelor of Commerce, University of Auckland** - *Management, Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Statistics, Business Computing***INTERESTS**

- Fermentation ➤ Roasting coffee ➤ Swimming ➤ Hiking ➤ Sailing
- Social, economic and tech/bio trends ➤ NZ Art ➤ Meditation, Mindfulness, Philosophy