Aken Roberts

(Legal name for background: Eric M. Roberts)

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Technical founder and software engineering leader with nearly 20 years of experience building scalable SaaS, data collection, and e-commerce platforms. Bringing a founder's mindset and broad technical expertise to deliver user-centric solutions that drive business growth.

Technical Skills

Frontend	TypeScript, React, Vue.js
Backend	Next.js, Node.js, Express, PHP (Laravel, Symfony)
Mobile	React Native, Ionic + Capacitor
Databases	MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, MongoDB, Firebase Firestore
Cloud & Infrastructure	AWS (S3, EC2, SES, SQS, RDS, Lambda), Docker, GitHub Actions
Testing & Quality	TDD, BDD, Playwright, Cypress, Gherkin
Architecture	Event-Driven Systems, State Machines, SOLID Principles, API Design
Observability	ELK Stack, OpenTelemetry, New Relic

Experience

Technical Founder, Independent Consultant @ Cryode.com (2023–Present)

Led multiple technical ventures and client projects, demonstrating adaptability and full-stack expertise.

- Author of *Become a Senior Engineer* newsletter (50% open rate)
- Architected and launched multiple platforms including a PRM mobile app and geo-search enabled business directory
- Delivered concurrent API integration, e-commerce, and mobile app projects for clients

Senior Product Engineer @ FormAssembly (2019–2023)

Large-scale enterprise form data collection SaaS.

- Core contributor of state machine-driven Workflow engine with asynchronous event processing
- Created visual workflow debugger that expedited bug triage and increased developer confidence
- Created & maintained non-profit e-commerce integration
- Led migration from Bitbucket to GitHub after size limits froze activity (the Repocalypse!)
- Reduced failure rates, accelerated deployment via increased test coverage and CI optimization
- Led cost-benefit analysis of enterprise integration platforms vs. custom solutions
- Led feature planning, retrospectives, code reviews; mentored teammates
- Interviewed and assessed engineering candidates

Technical Founder @ Nicheket (2018–2019)

Startup peer-to-peer marketplace (like eBay) for collectors and hobbyists.

- Led end-to-end development and launch of peer-to-peer marketplace platform
- Built full-stack platform with PCI-compliant payments, shipping, and listing management
- Navigated early-stage startup challenges including the cold start marketplace problem

Partner, Custom Applications Lead @ Swarming Technology (2013–2017)

From employee #5 to partner at a digital agency.

- Helped scale company from 5 to 40 employees while leading technical strategy
- Lead development teams that delivered two primary custom applications for customers
- Built AWS cost monitoring platform that optimized billing accuracy and hosting profitability
- Built fault-tolerant messaging system for e-commerce platform integrations
- Engaged directly with customers for product iteration and support

Lead Engineer @ Boho Inc. (2009–2011)

- Architected multi-tenant e-commerce platform serving multiple retail stores
- Automated order fulfillment with barcode inventory and shipping label generation
- Created made-to-order custom candle purchasing system
- Assisted in customer service, warehouse operations as needed

Lead Engineer, Fulfillment, & CSR @ Oznium (2006)

- Employee #2 - I wore a lot of hats!
- Created and maintained a custom online e-commerce retail platform
- Shipped orders, received and stocked new inventory
- Provided exceptional customer service

Miscellaneous

- Volunteered at local tech meetups – résumé reviewing, hackathon judge
- Spoke multiple times at local user groups
- Answered 250+ questions on StackOverflow, earning 13,000+ rep

Personal website: akenroberts.com

Product portfolio: cryode.com

Become a Senior Engineer newsletter: https://becomeaseniorengineer.com