Joseph (JJ) Dorko

Software Engineer | Suita, Osaka, Japan | jdorko90@gmail.com
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Spouse of Japanese National visa (no sponsorship required) | English (native), Japanese (basic conversational, JLPT N5)

SUMMARY

Software engineer with about eight years of professional experience, seven of them building secure, high-availability clinical communication software (Ruby on Rails, Java, PostgreSQL, Linux), most recently COO and technical lead of a Japan-based software contracting company. Hands-on across Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, TypeScript, Python, and AWS, including a solo Rails 4.2 to Rails 7.1 upgrade backed by 8,000+ unit tests written by Claude Code and reviewed by me one by one. Experienced Scrum Master who has set engineering standards, owned CI/CD and deployment, and mentored engineers. Based in Osaka, currently also teaching English, and looking for an English-speaking software engineering role.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Ruby, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Java, C#, SQL
Frameworks & Tools: Ruby on Rails, Next.js, React, Vue.js, Supabase, Tailwind, Unity, AngularJS, Groovy/Grails, Vitest, Playwright, AI-assisted development (Claude Code)
Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS (EC2, S3), GitHub Actions, Capistrano, PostgreSQL, Red Hat Linux, Bash, Apache, systemd, GlassFish, OpenMQ, keepalived, XMPP
Leadership & Process: Scrum, Agile, SAFe, sprint planning, backlog management, technical standards, onboarding, mentoring, OKRs

EXPERIENCE

Chief Operating Officer | ME Tech, Japan | 01/2026 – 10/2026
Five-person software contracting company that also ran technology for the founder's other businesses, including Modern English. My role ended in 10/2026 when contract work ran out and the company restructured.

- Upgraded LiveSchedule (a school management platform used by two schools, about 800 students plus staff) from Rails 4.2 to 7.1 and the shared Bokoco and Happy Valley backend (online reading libraries) from 6.1 to 7.1, single-handedly. Built 8,000+ unit tests for LiveSchedule, 500+ for Bokoco and end-to-end tests: I hand-wrote the factories, Claude Code wrote most tests, and I reviewed each.
- Cut photo load times by about 40% by migrating from Paperclip to Active Storage and page load times by about 15% through the Rails upgrade, and fixed 30 to 50 bugs and UI issues.
- Cut school onboarding time by 25% with streamlined forms and a faster backend, and stopped students from accidentally creating organization accounts (about 3 a month to zero).
- Built the company website in Vue.js, set up a GitHub Actions CI/CD pipeline, and managed the application's EC2 server and S3 document storage on AWS, deploying with Capistrano.
- Delivered about five projects in Ruby on Rails, Vue.js, TypeScript, and Python, including a Stripe payments update for an online parts marketplace to handle platform and seller percentages.
- Set coding standards, code review, and quality and security requirements, managed two direct reports, onboarded three team members, and ran planning and milestones with the CEO.

English Teacher | Osaka, Japan | 10/2024 – Present
Dorothy EQ Plaza, Suita (10/2024 – present) · Little Stars English, Osaka (01/2026 – present) · Mac's English School, Osaka (substitute, 10/2024 – 11/2025) · private students

- Teach students aged 1 to 65 across three schools and privately: one-on-one lessons for children and adults, and group lessons for children aged 1 to 16.
- Design custom lesson plans, including CLIL-based lessons and business English programs.

Independent Developer | Remote, while traveling in Eastern Europe and Asia | 10/2022 – 12/2025

- Contributed development, QA, and project management to Echoes of Undeath, a two-person Unity (C#) indie game now in Early Access on Steam.
- Built the website for Dorothy EQ Plaza, an English school in Suita (dorothy-eq.com) with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Advised small teams on project planning: scope, milestones, and task breakdowns.

Platform Developer II & Scrum Master | Vocera Communications | Fort Wayne, IN | 04/2018 – 12/2021
Platform Developer I, 12/2016 – 04/2018 · Junior Platform Developer (part-time), 11/2014 – 12/2016 · Extension Healthcare, acquired by Vocera in 2016. Vocera's clinical communication products were used in 2,300+ healthcare facilities.

- As Scrum Master for an international team of about 15 in the US and India, ran the Scrum events and rolled out process changes that halved retrospective time and cut bug grooming time by 30% and

sprint planning time by 70%.
- Represented engineering with hospital customers during escalations, working within HIPAA privacy requirements.
- Cut execution time of a frequently run PostgreSQL query (nested group membership) by 70% by adding an index and a table that stores each group's subgroups, speeding up login and chat loading.
- Designed an active/standby high-availability cluster with keepalived and database replication, so a standby node took over automatically when the active node failed.
- Implemented persistent messaging with OpenMQ, keeping messages in the database until fully processed to prevent message loss between components.
- Built a background job system that throttled heavy work such as large data migrations and bulk deletes, so it no longer slowed or blocked key features.
- Designed APIs used by several internal microservices, integrated phones and other devices over XMPP in Java, and built front-end forms in AngularJS.
- Added facility-level scoping of security policies, so admin permissions such as Manage Users could be limited to a single facility.
- Built data migration tooling: a generic CSV import/export and alias attributes that kept customers' existing workflows working after data model changes.
- Shipped clinician-facing features, including call and voicemail context in patient-linked conversations and reusable event message templates.
- Mentored an intern, created onboarding plans and an onboarding guide for new engineers, and helped the engineering manager set OKRs and growth plans for about five engineers.

Web Application Developer (Part-time, Student Worker) | IT Services, IPFW | 05/2013 – 11/2014
- Owned web application projects end to end in Groovy and Grails, from gathering requirements with clients through database design and release.

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science | Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne (now Purdue University Fort Wayne) | 12/2017, completed while working full-time

CERTIFICATIONS

JLPT N5 (2024)

PROJECTS

Sensei Connect (in development): bilingual Japanese/English marketplace for substitute teachers in Japan, with Stripe Connect payouts and LINE Login; sole product owner and developer. Next.js, TypeScript, Supabase, about 810 tests. · Heartopia Hub (Android beta): offline-first game companion app in React, TypeScript and Capacitor.