

# Whitney Zilton

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## SUMMARY

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Backend Software Engineer with experience building distributed systems, event-driven services, and high-traffic APIs. Skilled in Go and Python, with experience designing microservices, Kafka-based architectures, and automation tooling for enterprise platforms. Passionate about building reliable, observable systems and applying secure SDLC practices to deliver resilient software.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Senior Software Engineer

#### Target

**October 2023 - October 2025**

- Implemented automation tooling to streamline application deployment on Target Application Platform, including cluster and secrets configuration enhancements and JaCoCo CI/CD integration.
- Improved scalability and reliability of high-traffic backend APIs through autoscaling design, performance testing, and observability enhancements in Grafana.
- Developed Kafka-based services and libraries to enrich event streams with product metadata, supporting downstream analytics and personalization.
- Advanced secure SDLC practices through threat modeling, penetration testing coordination, and vulnerability remediation across SCA, SAST, and DAST tooling.

### Software Engineer

#### Target

**May 2021 - October 2023**

- Automated configuration-change approvals via Slackbot, reducing response times from 3 hours to under 2 minutes and lowering operational load.
- Developed a Kafka integration library to standardize producer and consumer communication patterns across backend microservices.
- Implemented Kafka consumer logic to automate LDAP/Active Directory group-based access provisioning across multiple internal systems.
- Facilitated onboarding for 40+ engineers in the July 2021 Early Tech Talent cohort through cohort programming, presentations, and pod support.

### Associate Software Engineer

#### Target

**April 2020 - May 2021**

- Developed backend endpoints to automate Ansible AWX workflows for network resource provisioning, reducing manual configuration time by 60 minutes per API call.
- Created a backend event service enabling event creation across multiple network resource types.
- Implemented a microservice to configure WAN backup routers, supporting business continuity during network outages.
- Served as Pod Coach Lead for the January 2021 Early Tech Talent cohort, supporting 50+ engineers through pod check-ins, technical guidance, and escalation of onboarding challenges.

## EDUCATION

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### Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Oregon State University

### Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Macalester College

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Languages: Python, Go, Kotlin, JavaScript, Groovy

Backend Development: REST APIs, GraphQL APIs, Microservices, Event-Driven Architectures

Frameworks: Micronaut, Flask, Django

Messaging & Data Systems: Kafka, PostgreSQL, MongoDB

Infrastructure & DevOps: Docker, Git, GitHub, CI/CD Pipelines

Security: Threat Modeling, Secure SDLC, SAST / DAST / SCA Integration