



Ashesh Ambasta

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Address: Koningin Fabiolalaan 15, 8790, Waregem, Belgium (Home)

● ABOUT ME

I'm a backend engineer who strongly believes in engineering systems using first principles. I believe there's elegance in simplicity and in mathematical abstractions built with simplicity. To that end, I like programming in Haskell, which keeps me close to the mathematical nature of programming. I try to solve a problem in the most general and simple form, which, I've seen, lends itself to ensuring the system is extensible and maintainable in the future.

I've successfully built multiple large systems in the past, some of which are still in use today.

At my current role, I've built the backend of CentralApp almost single handedly: from high level design and architecture to the actual implementation. I've also been mentor to several developers in my team whom, I believe, have moved on to similarly challenging roles and have learnt from their experience working with me.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

11/2014 – CURRENT Brussels, Belgium
CTO/CO-FOUNDER CENTRALAPP

- First implementation of the system in Scala (V1)
 - 9 months to completion
 - First iteration of a marketable product, and hence first paying clients.
 - Scala let us tap into the rich JVM ecosystem when needed.
- Second implementation using Haskell and Nix (V2)
 - Haskell and Nix to build a large scale distributed system.
 - Leveraged Haskell's very deterministic nature to write very reliable and robust code.
 - Designed a novel API gateway, well suited for distributed systems (planning to open source this).
 - Transparent caching system (with transparent failovers to SQL).
 - 300k LoC (and counting).
 - Millions of requests per hour.
 - Currently serving 5000 unique domain names (along with other features).
- AWS
 - SNS/SQS for messaging
 - ECS (Fargate) for hands off deployment and runtime.
 - RDS, again, for hands off DB management.

The details of my work at CentralApp can be found [here](#).

Business or Sector Information and communication | **Department** Backend Engineering | **Email** ashesh@centralapp.com |

Website centralapp.com

02/2014 – 09/2014 Ghent, Belgium

WEB DEVELOPER POSIOS

- Kitchen Display System: AngularJS touchscreen application that uses websockets and a complex RESTful API to bring the kitchen to any touchscreen device.
- End user order/profile management app: AngularJS, Riak, NodeJS app for restaurant online ordering endpoints.
- Product stabilisation, bugfixes.

06/2013 – 02/2014 Ghent, Belgium

DEVELOPER ENGAGOR/CLARABRIDGE

07/2011 – 08/2022 Bangalore, India

PRODUCT ENGINEER MAXHEAP/COMMONFLOOR

- Re implemented search to improve performance by 10x and make it more faceted so backend teams could improve it.
- Implemented a business intelligence system/framework to analyse system data and generate back-office insights.

01/2011 – 05/2011 Bangalore, India

NLP INTERN BLU/FACTORS

- Used Erlang to implement a distributed system to statistically analyse language to develop English to SQL models.
- Research into NLP using statistical models developed at IBM.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

06/2007 – 07/2011 Vellore, India

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING VIT, Vellore

Website vit.ac.in | **Field of study** Computer Science & Engineering |

Thesis Statistical Language models for Human to SQL translation.

DIGITAL SKILLS

Storage

PostgreSQL | MySQL/MariaDB | Redis

Programming Languages

SQL | Haskell | Erlang | Scala | Functional Programming | Java

Misc/Ops

Docker | Git | Linux | AWS | Nix

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ENGLISH** | **HINDI**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
DUTCH	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Photography

I've been a photographer since 2008 and I've dabbled in film as well as digital photography. My photographs have been featured on DeviantArt and Flickr.

Link <https://www.flickr.com/photos/asheshambasta>

Music

I've been very interested in electronic music. I used to DJ in college, and I've produced several electronic music tracks with sounds that have been synthesized from scratch.

I've used Tidal (Haskell) and SuperCollider for sound synthesis and design.

Link <https://soundcloud.com/asheshambasta>

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

09/12/2019 KU Leuven, Computer science and engineering.

Haskell and CentralApp: a dive into our API Gateway.

Presented a talk on our novel API Gateway, Quasar, and how Haskell lends itself at a startup.

This was part of a closing lecture by Dr. Tom Schrijvers, a core contributor to GHC and an eminent professor at KU Leuven, Belgium.

Link <https://centralapp.github.io/backend-tech-talks/2019.12.09-kuleuven/>

03/2024 Online

Haskell at CentralApp, Primis tech.

Presented the general benefits of Haskell at a startup along with industry leaders in the Haskell/Nix space.

Link <https://asheshambasta.stackstorage.com/s/hOkY7xZ1mXo3CEZG>