Now hiring: Ruby Engineer

Cambridge, MA

Who we are
Firecracker Inc. is a group of entrepreneurs impassioned by our mission to redefine education. Each of us has been personally frustrated by the one-size-fits-all approach at school at various points in our lives and we're here to rage against this factory model. Our principles are simple: students come first, learning has to be fun, and machines should be answering the who/what/when/where/how/s of studying.

What we do
Firecracker helps us create a custom learning plan that constantly adapts to our unique goals, learning style and strengths. It's like having your own personal tutor — 24/7. We're all about making learning personal. We believe that then, and only then, can learning be fun, engaging and effective. Each of us learns in dramatically different ways, but we are all taught the same material in the same way at the same pace. Firecracker’s mission is to solve this 7 trillion dollar problem.

(see "About Firecracker" below for more)

We're looking for
Ruby engineers who want to take their talents to Cambridge and build technology that really helps people. You enjoy a good conversation about theory or architecture, but you are happiest writing code and turning those ideas into usable products. You care about the quality of your code and products more than anyone you know and you're proud to take full ownership of your work. You think about the experience of using your products as you're building them. You care about getting the right solution on the table regardless of whether it was your idea, your teammate's idea, or the foosball table repair man's idea. Ideas that live inside boxes burn you out and ideas that live outside boxes jazz you up. You're not a church mouse when you feel strongly about something but your approach to voicing your opinions doesn't involve Tasers and bull horns. Your teammates' glorious code makes you almost as happy as your own glorious code.

Working at Firecracker
We're building our first barge in the Cambridge area and we need help filling our loft-y space with enough espresso to put a brontosaurus into A-fib. We have a lot of fun doing our job and we get excited about pushing new code live several times a day. We go on semi-annual hackathons to cool places like Nova Scotia (if you didn't know there is a super fast boat that you can put your car on and gamble all the way to Nova Scotia from, now you know). Pizza and beer are never far away, nor are fresh fruit and vegetables for that matter.

We're Looking For:
- Extensive experience developing with RoR (including Redis/Resque, Memcached, etc.)
- Love affair with agile and TDD
- Experience with MySQL and relational DB design
- Comfortable with AWS (EC2 + S3)
- Experience with version control and a staged deployment environment (Git/Github, etc)
- Comfortable with RESTful API design and execution (Sinatra)
- Comfortable with command-line scripting in a unix environment
- Passion for exploring different design patterns
- Familiarity with service-oriented architecture

Bonus Points If:
- You have a machine learning/AI background
- You like working with large datasets
- You throw up a little if you ever have to use Windows
- You know your way around Engine Yard or Heroku or custom-built production environments

**Firecracker's get:**
- The immense satisfaction that comes from doing something critical for the advancement of humanity alongside other extraordinarily awesome people
- A competitive salary
- Stock options
- Free catered lunches every day
- 100% employer-covered health insurance
- The most bad-ass business cards that ever lived (or didn't live but you get the idea). No joke.

If you think you’re a fit and want to change the world for the better, send us your resume or LinkedIn profile, Github account info, portfolio etc. to welovematz@firecracker.me

**About Firecracker**

Education is a 7 trillion dollar industry; that’s 570 times bigger than the online advertising market and more than the GDP of Italy, France and the UK combined. Given this enormous investment we would expect that our education system does a good job of teaching us. Yet research shows this isn’t the case. Why? Because even though each of learns in dramatically different ways, we are all taught the same material in the same way at the same pace.

That’s why Firecracker’s online learning platform gives us a custom learning plan that constantly adapts to our unique goals, learning style and strengths. It’s like having your very own personal tutor — 24/7. Unlike other adaptive learning solutions, Firecracker is rooted in proven cognitive science techniques such as spaced repetition and retrieval practice that dramatically increase knowledge acquisition, retention, and test scores. Tellingly, our three core methods were recently endorsed in this NYT article.

Still in beta, the first application of our platform serves first- and second-year medical students who consistently attribute whole letter grade improvements in their classes and test scores in the 99th percentile to our unique approach. Through word-of-mouth alone, sales are quadrupling every year. To better serve medical students and position Firecracker for rapid expansion, we have partnered with leading publishers such as $9B giant Wolters Kluwer. We will expand first within healthcare (e.g. dental, nursing), then to other higher education and professional markets (e.g. law, finance, technical/vocational) and later to secondary and primary school. Firecracker’s team is comprised of startup veterans, engineers and educators with decades of experience building revolutionary platforms in a wide variety of industries including healthcare, enterprise software and consumer internet. Celebrate learning at www.firecracker.me