

RODNEY GAINOUS JR

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EDUCATION

Wayne State University
Bachelor's, Computer Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Safe **Los Angeles, CA, USA**
Founding Principal Engineer *May 2020 - Present*

- Founded Safe after spinning out from Upfront Ventures' residency program, securing \$1.5M seed funding.
- Shipped a public-key-encrypted Chrome extension, protecting 100k+ users from phishing.
- Integrated Safe with Fortune-500 security stacks (AWS, Okta, GCP) for seamless rollout.
- Introduced a zero-trust auth gateway, halving unauthorized-access attempts.

Upfront Ventures **Los Angeles, CA, USA**
Entrepreneur in Residence (Contract) *November 2020 - April 2021*

- Validated Safe's PMF, hired the first four engineers, and lined up seed investors within six months.
- Advised portfolio founders on GTM strategy and system architecture.
- Ran technical diligence on 10+ seed deals, flagging scalability gaps.
- Delivered threat-model reviews that uncovered high-severity vulnerabilities in two portfolio companies.

Bird **Los Angeles, CA, USA**
Senior Software Engineer (Android, iOS, Full-stack) *February 2018 - April 2020*

- Pushed OTA firmware that upgraded BLE on a 100k scooters fleet with zero downtime.
- Launched geofencing in 41 cities, driving a 60% drop in parking violations.
- Built rider-experience modules touched by 3M+ trips per month.
- Drove CI/CD and code-review rituals that cut bug regressions 25%.
- Localized the iOS app to 20 languages in three months.

Nima Labs **San Francisco, CA, USA**
Software Engineer (Android & iOS) *February 2017 - January 2018*

- Reduced firmware update time from 6 min to 2 min via delta patching.
- Raised BLE connection success rate 50% through signal-path tuning.
- Owned end-to-end Android & iOS apps (Kotlin, Objective-C) for an FDA-class IoT sensor.

Ford Motor Company **Dearborn, MI, USA**
Software Engineer (iOS) *January 2015 - December 2016*

- Built a crash-safe exception layer for FordPass v1, enabling the first public launch.
- Deployed a Jenkins build farm that boosted CI reliability 40%.
- Coordinated with vehicle and cloud teams to keep the Swift codebase 90%+ unit-tested.

Nexient **Ann Arbor, MI, USA**
Software Engineer (iOS) *June 2013 - December 2014*

- Cut media load latency 45% via GCD-driven parallelism and caching.
- Automated Hagerty Insurance's vehicle-condition workflow, doubling report throughput.
- Added an XCTest UI suite that halved regression-test runtime.

SKILLS

Skills: Objective-C, iOS/Swift, JavaScript, Kotlin, MySQL, Digital Ocean, Wireshark, Jenkins, AWS, Google Cloud Platform, TypeScript, Docker, Kubernetes, React Native, Node.js, GraphQL, Postgres, Firebase, Jetpack Compose