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Summary

An experienced technology leader interested in helping teams stabilize and scale both their products and their workloads

The most common themes of my career have been data and leadership. Whether I've been scaling single-node databases to dozens of TB, or shepherding teams of software developers through morale issues, my work has centered around enabling those around me to grow and succeed.

When confronted with a new business domain, I adapt quickly. It does not take long for me to understand enough to foresee both technological and personnel challenges and opportunities that may have evaded someone closer to the situation.

I recognize the importance of having both strategic vision and the ability to make tactical decisions, and am capable of communicating those to both team members and business stakeholders. Mentoring and delegation are two of my preferred growth techniques, and I find it very important to provide an environment where it is safe to fail. I'm comfortable working both onsite and remotely.

Experience

Monograph   REMOTE

Engineering Manager, Data Team   *January '22 – June '22*

Lead a cross-functional team of data engineers and data analysts. Audited existing data systems, and developed dashboards and other data deliverables for our internal customers. Created and began execution of a plan to pivot from purely-reactional data tooling to an intentional, forward-looking data platform.

Khan Academy   REMOTE

Senior Software Engineer, Data Infrastructure   *January '20 – August '21*

Designed, implemented, and migrated a new data pipeline platform based on Airflow, in association with other data infrastructure engineers. Maintained old, bespoke platform. Developed tools and documentation to help other developers create data pipelines.

Rentrak/comScore   PORTLAND, OR

Senior Manager, Data Systems   *June '18 – December '19*

Managed four teams during difficult times with minimal turnover. Worked with higher-level management to reduce priority churn, helping morale and productivity. Planned hardware refresh and encryption implementations for data warehouse clusters (over 200 nodes) and hadoop clusters (over 800 nodes). Oversaw implementation of PII search and management for compliance with GDPR.

Manager, Database Administration   *January '17 – June '18*

Worked with developers to help define and plan our next generation technology. Worked to stabilize and scale our prior-gen platforms. Created automation to significantly reduce the amount of time required to handle the most common DBA tasks.

Senior Database Administrator/Team Lead, Data Team   *July '13 – January '17*

Managed PostgreSQL databases greater than 50TB in size. Wrote tools to help manage hundreds of databases. Greatly increased cooperation between the DBAs and developers. Organized and led several key research efforts to ensure our ability to continue serving ever-increasing data at reasonable speeds.

Interim Director of IT   *April '15 – May '15*

Took over primary duties while the Director of IT took an extended two-month leave of absence. Created cost and schedule plans for building out a European datacenter. Mediated several significant intra-team disputes. Restarted two key, multi-month projects which had stalled.

Janrain, Inc   PORTLAND, OR

Team Lead, Analytics   *July '11 – July '13*

Supported several disconnected, aging, reporting systems. Designed and built a new, integrated, loosely-coupled, scalable infrastructure. Created a high-traffic event tracking server, new storage scheme, new summarization process, and new dynamic reporting server. Developed strategies to deal with the variability of i/o response on AWS.

Juju, Inc REMOTE

Senior Software Developer *July '09 – July '11*

Researched and developed improvements to a lucene/solr search engine. Created framework for generic concurrent consumption of work queues. Transitioned from bespoke management tools in a data center to chef in AWS. Prototyped a web-speed recommendation engine and classifier.

Independent Consultant VARIED LOCATIONS

Principal *March '07 – present*

Work both solo and with existing teams, on-site and remote, in varying roles. Consult on topics such as software architecture and development management. Work in machine learning, including textual analysis, statistical natural language processing, classification, and category discovery.

Seethroo (defunct) REMOTE

Lead Engineer *March '07 – July '09*

The primary research and developer for this ad targeting platform centered on user-generated content. Evaluated a number of different classification algorithms. Implemented a multiple-independent-model system. Lifted categorization accuracy from 70% to 92%.

LiveText LA GRANGE, IL

Technology Manager *April '06 – March '07*

Responsible for taking the development team of a long-time startup-mode company into an operational and sustainable process. Built a new technology team. Created standards for project estimation and status. Successfully scoped and delivered two major releases.

Performics/DoubleClick CHICAGO, IL

Software Architect *July '04 – February '06*

Responsible for the stability, expansion, and scalability of a large (approximately 500kloc), web-based application. Reimplemented, from database to front-end, the entire reporting infrastructure, rivaling our custom-built data warehouse in performance and flexibility. Coordinated software design among several separated development groups. Created a four-year development plan to adapt the application to expected growth.

Senior Perl Developer *August '00 – July '04*

Single-handedly maintained a legacy application during a protracted rewrite. Engaged in lengthy requirements gathering for complex fee agreements, and designed models to handle them. Implemented frameworks for online and offline processing, including tools to keep them in sync. Mediated several developer conflicts.

Please refer to my Linkedin profile for a more complete list of work experience.

Skills

Leadership skills: communication strategy, conflict mediation, critical thinking, strategic planning, written and verbal communication, building consensus, delegation, team building, motivation, mentoring, professional development

Technical skills: software development, software architecture, data architecture, database administration

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Interests and Hobbies

Non-exhaustive: Baking, gaming, generative music, ancient literature, self-education, volunteer work