

Jerry Aska

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Backend and platform engineer specializing in secure messaging systems, developer tooling, and observability.

Passionate about building scalable systems and enabling teams through documentation, automation, and mentorship.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, C++, Bash

Infrastructure and Cloud: AWS (incl. CDK, CloudFormation, Lambda, IAM), Kubernetes, Helm, Docker

Dev Tooling: Git, Puppeteer, Jest, k9s, cURL

EDUCATION

New York University, Tandon School of Engineering, Brooklyn, New York

May 2023

B. S. Computer Engineering, Minor in Psychology

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon Web Services, Wickr | Manhattan, New York

Software Development Engineer – Backend and Messaging Team | July 2023 – Present

- Deployed Wickr services to AWS secret and top-secret regions using CDK to meet IL6 classification requirements
- Built real-time billing dashboards and alerting canaries to detect SNS drop events, preventing revenue leakage
- Refactored CDK logic to reduce manual actions, accelerate regional expansion workflows and reduce support overhead.
- Drove internal adoption of CDK validation tooling that increased deployment confidence and reduced rollback
- Increased network obfuscation in restrictive environments by implementing regionalized tunnels for Wickr Open Access
- Created and maintained Kubernetes runbooks adopted by multiple dev teams, accelerating incident resolution times
- Mentored 2 interns across consecutive summers on observability and bot management projects for Wickr Enterprise
- Established a weekly broadcast channel to share technical tips and foster a peer learning environment for intern cohorts
- Managed a \$10K annual team-building budget, organizing morale and cohesion events for a 30-person engineering org
- Represented Amazon at university recruiting events, tech diversity panels, and high school outreach programs

Software Development Engineering Intern – Voice and Video Team | May 2022 – August 2022

- Enhanced team observability by migrating legacy dashboards and alarms to use Amazon native services
- Overhauled UML diagrams of high-level system architecture to revitalize outdated team documentation
- Identified and corrected pitfalls in team's onboarding procedure, accelerating time to productivity for new hires

New York University, Tandon School of Engineering | Brooklyn, New York

Lead Teaching Assistant – Computer Architecture and Organization | January 2022 – May 2023

- Fostered a pressure free environment through personalized empathetic interactions for groups of ~20 students weekly
- Guided 160 students in software installation and troubleshooting across key systems (Verilog, Intel x86)
- Coordinated 7 other assistants to assess student performance and provide feedback with biweekly assignments

Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Computer Science | January 2023 – May 2023

- Instructed ~200 students in weekly activities aimed at familiarizing students with a Linux environment
 - Generated weekly course content and activities to gradually familiarize students with basic shell commands and scripting
- SCRUM Master – Daimler Trucks Driveline Innovation Project August 2022 – December 2022*
- Managed a team of 4 students to create a custom work order tool for Daimler's drivetrain for senior design
 - Facilitated weekly planning, stand-ups, and retrospective meetings to ensure project progress and team communication

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Founder & Sponsor – The Jerry Aska Awards

Villa Primary School, Antigua & Barbuda | 2023 – Present

- Fund an annual scholarship honoring top-performing students in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science
- Provide \$250 USD per awardee, with a total yearly contribution of \$1,000 to support academic achievement

New York University, Tandon School of Engineering | Brooklyn, New York

Senator – National Society of Black Engineers | Brooklyn, New York | August 2022 – May 2023

- Support event execution and represent peers at national conventions, refining public speaking and organizational skills.