GIRIDHARAN NARAYANAN

Principal Software Engineer | Engineering Manager

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SUMMARY

Principal-level software engineer and engineering manager with 13+ years at Microsoft, combining deep technical ownership with thoughtful people and product leadership. Experienced in building high-impact product systems, leading senior engineering teams, and delivering measurable business impact across enterprise products. Known for driving clarity, trust, and execution in fast-moving product environments.

CORE SKILLS

Languages: C#, Python, TypeScript
Frameworks: .NET, React, Node.js
Cloud: Azure, Docker
Data: ClickHouse, REST APIs, ETL, Streaming
Architecture: Microservices, Event-Driven Systems, API Design
Leadership: Team Growth, Mentorship, Hiring, Performance Reviews
Product: Cross-Functional Collaboration, Roadmap Execution

EXPERIENCE

Principal Software Engineering Manager

Microsoft — Copilot Analytics, Viva Insights | New Jersey, USA | Apr 2023 – Present
- Lead Copilot Analytics organization driving adoption, ROI understanding, and business impact of Microsoft Copilot
- Built analytics feedback loops that helped customers understand, trust, and expand their Copilot usage
- Organizations using Copilot Analytics purchased ~140% more Copilot licenses and had ~280% more active Copilot users compared to non-analytics customers
- Scaled the team from 7 to 10 engineers while maintaining strong ownership culture and delivery quality
- Delivered Copilot Dashboard and enterprise metrics platform used by business and IT leaders
- Own technical direction, hiring, performance development, and roadmap execution

Principal Software Development Engineer

Microsoft — Viva Insights (Manager Effectiveness) | New Jersey, USA | Sept 2022 – Apr 2023
- Tech Lead for manager effectiveness experiences delivering actionable, explainable insights for people managers
- Owned end-to-end delivery from problem framing through production rollout

Senior Software Development Engineer / Tech Lead

Microsoft — Viva Insights (Daily Briefing, Manager Experiences) | Redmond, USA | Sept 2019 – Sept 2022
- Led engineering for Viva Daily Briefing email reaching ~40M monthly active users at peak
- Designed scalable backend services and data pipelines supporting millions of daily interactions
- Primary technical owner for multiple production-critical components

Senior Software Development Engineer

Microsoft India — Azure DevOps (ChatOps Integrations) | Hyderabad, India | Feb 2018 – Sept 2019
- Delivered Microsoft Teams and Slack integrations for Azure DevOps services
- Owned strategy definition, execution planning, and cross-team delivery coordination

Software Development Engineer

Microsoft India — Azure DevOps (Agile, VC, Wiki) | Hyderabad, India | 2013 – 2018
- Designed and led Azure DevOps Wiki architecture including storage, REST APIs, and UX integration
- Delivered Git, project creation, and collaboration experiences used by millions of developers

LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

- Microsoft High Potential (HiPo) Leadership Program participant
- Azure DevOps Emerging Leaders initiative
- Mentor supporting career growth across multiple engineering teams

EDUCATION

B.Tech in Information Technology, PSG College of Technology — 2013
CGPA: 9.8