Navigating Career Growth in a Mid-Size Company

Strategies for building your own path

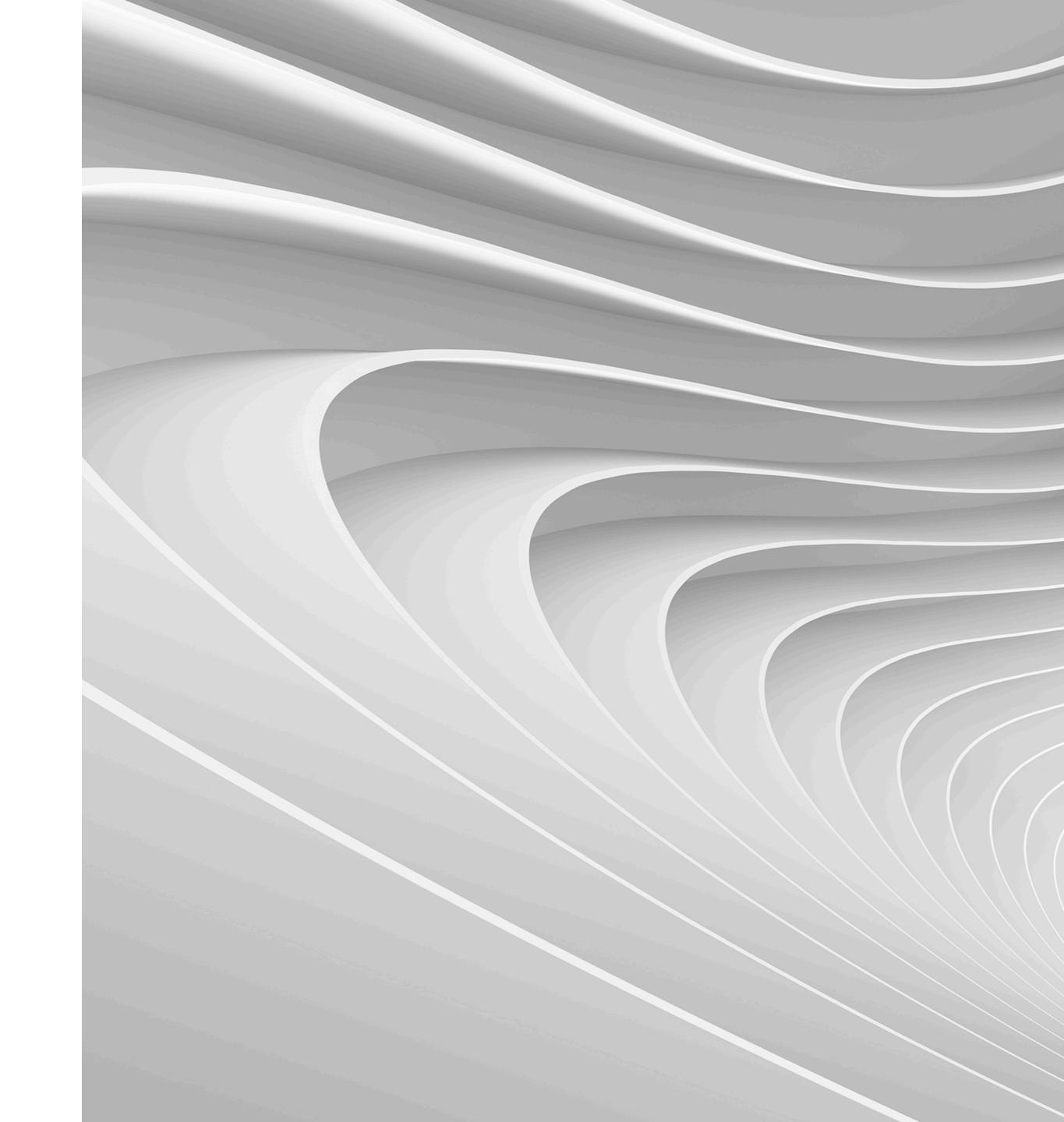


Staff Engineer at Detroit Labs

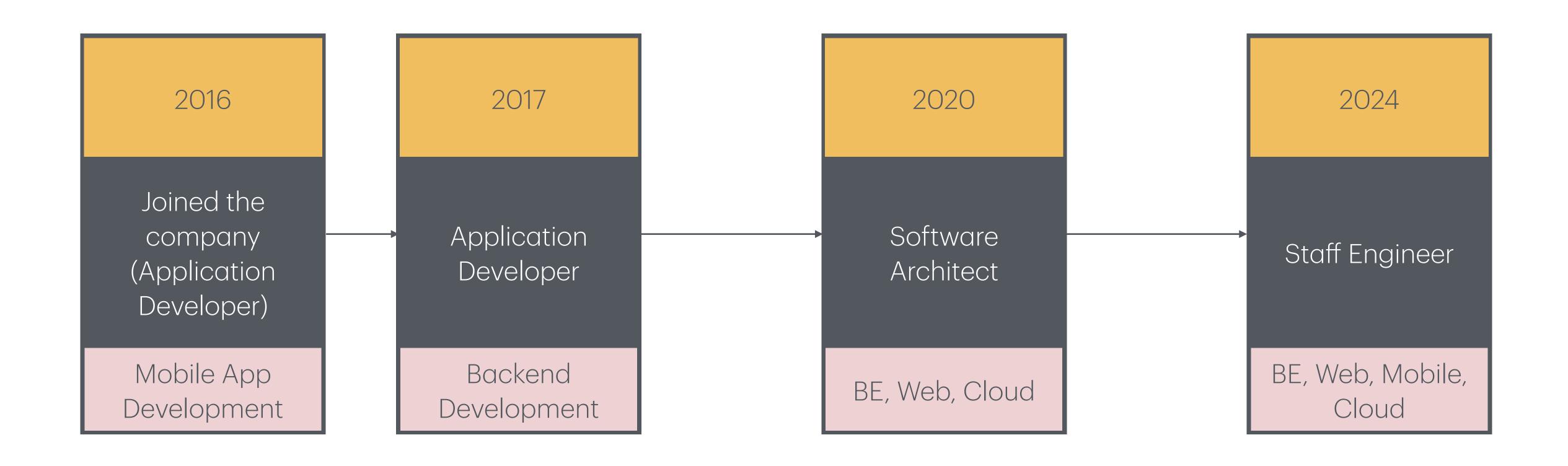
Backend, Web, Mobile App

GCP, IaaC





Background



Connect with Company Leaders

Building Genuine Relationships with Leaders within the company

- Leaders are more accessible. Use that.
- Curiosity about their work
- Insight into company direction
 - Answer to where you can contribute
- Opportunity to talk about your work!

The "T" Developer

Deepen your expertise before branching out

- More of the same is better initially
- Helps you get an in-depth experience
- Skills between framework, tools and technologies are portable
 - Branching out becomes easy
- Accelerates ability to solve complex cross platform needs

Building a Personal Brand

Strategies to make yourself visible

- Lunch and Learns
- Presenting at developer meetings
- Organizing demoes, show and tells
- Re creating existing software with newer apps
- Mentorships

Be Vulnerable

Practice the courage to face "Not Knowing"

- Get out of your comfort zone
 - That is where growth happens
- Take on stretch assignments
 - Can be a confidence boost
- Asking for help is not a sign of weakness

Request Feedback and Be Coachable

Consistent feedback cycle accelerates growth

- Ask deeper feedback questions
- Make a "feedback addressing" plan, track progress
- Know when to ask for help!

Cross Functional Team Work

Working with other teams within the company

- High level picture of how companies work!
- Helps you identify how to be helpful to other teams
- Increase visibility across teams

Choose your path

Technical vs People Management

- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- How will you figure out what you enjoy when you are not doing it?
- Talk to peers who have made the choice

Upskill

Choose your next thing

- Know how you like to learn
- Talk to people who are doing what you wish to
 - Identify gaps between where you are and where you want to be
- Identify people/things who can help you get there

Contribute widely

Take your learnings one level up

- Give talks at conferences or local meet up groups
- Offer to mentor outside work
- Blog, write for well renowned publishing companies

What not to do?

- Perfection
- Lack of boundaries
- A rigid path
- No Dream
- Realistic with company goals



In Summary

- Connect with Company Leaders
- In-depth Expertise before Branching Out
- Building a Personal Brand
- Being Vulnerable
- Request Feedback
- Cross-team Collaboration
- Technical vs People Management
- Upskilling
- Wider audience contributions

Thank You!