RAGHAVENDRA KANDI

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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PROFILE

Principal-level software engineer with 15+ years of experience designing and delivering large scale distributed systems, cloud-native platforms and high-throughput event-driven architectures. Combines deep hands-on engineering expertise (C#, Go, Kafka, AWS) with strong leadership skills – mentoring engineers, driving technical direction, guiding teams through complex architectural transformations and collaborating effectively across product and engineering organizations. Adept at operating as a Principal IC or a Tech Lead Manager, influencing technical strategy while ensuring high quality execution.

CORE STRENGTHS

- Distributed Systems Architecture and Event-Driven Design
- Cloud Platforms (AWS)
- Microservices at Scale
- High-Throughput Pipelines
- Cross-Team Technical Leadership and Mentorship
- Technical Strategy & Roadmap Execution
- Observability & Reliability Engineering

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Languages: C#, Go, Java, Python, PHP, JavaScript, PostgreSql, SQL
Distributed Systems: Kafka (multi-cluster replication), Redis, Cassandra (KeySpace), DynamoDB
Cloud & Infra: AWS (EKS, DynamoDB, Lambda, Aurora), Terraform, GitHub Actions, Kubernetes, Docker, Airflow
Architecture: Event-driven systems, microservices, caching layers, high availability, resiliency patterns
APIs & Services: gRPC, REST, GraphQL, ASP.NET, .NET CORE
Observability: Datadog, CloudWatch, SumoLogic, SuperSet
Software Engineering Methodology: Agile (Scrum), Kanban, Iterative, Test-Driven Development (TDD)
Additional: Athena, Glue, Spark, EKS, Git, CI/CD pipelines

PRINCIPAL ENGINEERING SCOPE AND IMPACT

- Architected large-scale distributed systems handling millions of events per day.
- Owned system designs and core platform decisions across multiple teams.
- Drove cloud migration strategy, event streaming architectures, and data distribution patterns.
- Mentored 4–6 engineers, set coding standards, and led technical design reviews.
- Influenced cross-team engineering practices and modernization initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal Software Engineer, Cardlytics — Aug 2017 — Oct 2025

System Architecture & Technical Leadership

- Architected and led development of microservices using Go, C#, Kafka, Redis, and AWS-native services.
- Owned key components of the event-streaming platform powering high-volume data flows.
- Re-architected key data paths using Redis to replace SQL Server, reducing read latency by ~60%.
- Built Kafka cluster-to-cluster replication tooling enabling multi-region data synchronization and resilience.

Large-Scale Distributed Systems and Cloud Engineering

- Engineered high-throughput services supporting 10M+ daily events with sub-100ms processing expectations.
- Designed resilient cloud architectures leveraging AWS (EKS, DynamoDB, Aurora, Lambda, Terraform).
- Led migration of Spark/Glue ETL workflow jobs to AWS Airflow DAGs, cutting compute costs by ~50%.
- Implemented fault-tolerant pipelines and observability improvements using Datadog and SumoLogic.

CI/CD and Infra Modernization

- Led modernization initiative moving legacy inventory systems from on-prem to AWS.
- Built Terraform-based infrastructure and end-to-end GitHub Actions pipelines, significantly reducing deployment failures by 40% and improving release consistency.
- Automated PR summarization and AI-assisted code reviews using GitHub Copilot to increase review velocity.

Leadership, Collaboration & Mentorship

- Partnered with Product, Architecture, and Data Engineering to define technical roadmaps, clarify requirements, and ensure predictable delivery across teams.
- Mentored engineers in system design, distributed systems concepts, and Go/C# best practices.
- Led design reviews, architecture discussions, and cross-team technical decision-making.
- Set engineering standards adopted across multiple teams.

Senior Software Engineer, Polaris Wireless — May 2012 — Aug 2017

Big Data Systems & High-Scale Architecture

- Built and optimized large-scale location intelligence systems used by wireless operators and public safety.
- Implemented big data POCs with Hadoop, Kafka, Hive and Spark for scalable analytics.

Service & API Engineering

- Designed complex service contracts, RESTful APIs, and asynchronous communication patterns.
- Improved system reliability and data integrity through optimized storage and service orchestration.

Software Developer (Consultant), Vintech Solutions @ Dish Network — Dec 2010 — Apr 2012

- Built highly used internal tools and service integrations supporting customer operations at scale.
- Improved application workflows, reduced service delays, and optimized data flow across internal systems.

Additional Early Experience

Student Intern and Research Assistant roles (2008-2010), contributing to internal web tools for Mobile County and assisting faculty on a federally funded voting system risk assessment project.

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Computer and Information Sciences — 2008 — 2010

University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama

Bachelor of Technology, Computer Sciences — 2004 — 2008

St. Mary's College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad