

# I AM GROOT ("GROOT")

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## SUMMARY

**Full-stack Software Development Engineer** and **Bar Raiser** at **Amazon** with **5+ years** of experience building secure Amazon-scale **web applications** with Ruby on Rails, JavaScript - jQuery and ReactJS, **SDKs** for the Android platform, **backend services** with Java, Kotlin, and **serverless applications** using AWS technologies. **Mentored 16** folks at Amazon over the last 3 years and helped **8** of them get promoted. **Speaker** and **workshop host** at **25+** Amazon-internal and external conferences, currently serving as **Core Committee member** for Webdevcon - Amazon's premier Front-end Engineering conference.

## EXPERIENCE

**Amazon, Inc., Software Development Engineer II, Alexa Runtime.**

Jan 2020 – Present

- Co-creator and lead designer of the SDK and Device software for a **new Alexa technology (patented)** that allows Alexa to be integrated with Android platform with minimal effort, reducing the engineering effort from **8 weeks to 0.2 days (99% reduction)** in time consumed). Partnering with leading US telecom provider and launching in August 2021, enabling a revenue stream of **\$27.6 million** for Amazon.
- Currently leading a **team of 3 engineers** designing the extension of the above technology to other platforms (iOS, Web) which will enable an additional incremental revenue stream of **\$24 million** pending approval from launch partner.
- Lead a team of **3 engineers** to scale **2 Tier-1 services** (Amazon business critical services) and perform Chaos/Resiliency testing to update Infrastructure setup, resulting in **zero** High-Severity events through Christmas 2020.
- Lead engineer who implemented the On-the-Go initiative and **Skill Resumption** feature for Alexa (announced at Alexa Live 2020 and covered by leading tech magazines like [Techcrunch](#)), launching 6 new Alexa powered products (earphones, glasses, microwave, etc.) in 2020 and enabling a revenue stream of **\$6.2 million** for Amazon.
- Serving as a **Bar Raiser at Amazon**, conducting **380+ interviews** and **leading debriefs** and **driving consensus** for hiring decisions across a multitude of roles, including Software Developers, Front-end Engineers, Product Managers, Data Scientists for Amazon, resulting in **116** successful hires.

**Amazon, Inc., Software Development Engineer II, Compliance - Transaction Risk Management.**

Dec 2017 –

Dec 2019

- Designed and implemented a **Self Service portal for non-engineers** (TPM's, Product and Compliance Managers) to automatically generate the code for **launching risk investigation** tools in different regions and marketplaces, reducing the engineering effort from **3 weeks to 0.5 days (96% reduction)** in time consumed) for each new region, resulting in **3-year annualized savings of \$350,000**.
- Lead a **team of 4 engineers** through requirements, design and implementation phases for the Brexit-Compliance project, working with a cross-functional team of UX designers, Product managers and Compliance officers from London and Luxembourg to achieve the changes needed for Amazon to be compliant with Brexit.
- Implemented and launched risk investigation tools in **3 new regions** - Amazon Payments **UK**, Amazon Payments **Europe**, and Amazon Payments **India** enabling **18 types** of investigations for Amazon businesses to stay compliant with regulations.
- Designed and implemented clustered case support for investigating related merchants enabling investigations of up to **2800 sellers simultaneously** to be conducted and filed to regulatory bodies, resulting in a **savings of \$12,000** per year.
- Migrated legacy search service to **AWS ElasticSearch** reducing page load times from **8 seconds to 3.4 seconds (57% reduction)** and reducing hardware cost by **\$6500** a year (**70% reduction** in cost).

**Amazon, Inc., Software Development Engineer, Compliance - Suspicious Activity Monitoring.**

Jul 2016 –

Dec 2017

- Designed and implemented a pre-push hook to verify code before merging with live pipelines that reduced pipeline failures from **24 failures** a month to **11 failures (54% reduction)** in failures) a month.
- Implemented and launched support for Suspicious Activity monitoring, Denied Party Screening, Identity verification and TIN verification.
- Designed and implemented a **Bulk report generation and download** feature, reducing investigation time from **9 hours to under 6 minutes (98% reduction)** in time consumed) resulting in cost savings of **\$30,000** per year.
- Received **"Truth Seeker"** award for actively working to **reduce operational cost** of software.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Technologies:** HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Ruby on Rails, Java, Kotlin, Sass, Android development.

**AWS Technologies:** Lambda, API Gateway, Amplify, AppSync, Cognito, DynamoDB, ElasticSearch, SQS, SNS, Network Load Balancer.

**Frameworks/Libraries:** ReactJS, jQuery, Bootstrap, SemanticUI, jQueryUI, Mocha, Sinon, ESLint, Chai.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Presented talks on the following topics to a combined total of **2300+** Amazon developers:

**Webdevcon - Amazon's front-end engineering conference. Edinburgh, Seattle, Amsterdam, New York, Virtual.**

2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

- Using **Functional Programming with Java** and JavaScript to reduce operational burden.
- Data modeling for **DynamoDB / NoSQL** to support high read loads.
- Deno JS** - Usage at Amazon as a replacement for Node.js.
- Using **React hooks** in production at Amazon focusing on Operational readiness.
- Introductory talk on using React hooks to promote adoption of Hooks across Amazon.
- Using **CSS Grids** in production to re-architect the Alexa web-app skill page.

**React Native Amazon (RNA) - Amazon's front-end engineering conference.**

2020

- React Native with **AWS toolchain** for secure deployment in production for Amazon's external facing products.

**Zoncon** - Amazon's premier security conference.

2018

- Presented a talk to 1200 engineers on **E-Mail header injections** and how to prevent it in Amazon systems.

## WORKSHOPS

Conducted the following workshops to a combined total of **800+** Amazon developers:

**Webdevcon** - Amazon's front-end engineering conference. London, Amsterdam, New York, Virtual.

2018, 2019,

- Creating and maintaining **Component libraries** for React based projects.

2020, 2021

- Using **React Native with Electron** to create multi-platform applications from a single code-base.

- Building ReactNative Mobile apps with **AWS Amplify**.

- Building **Serverless Applications** with AWS.

- Using **GraphQL** to build production services at Amazon.

- Building **Serverless Web Applications** with Native AWS.