

Amir Ali Jiwani

Software Craftsman

Contact

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About

A software enthusiast -- Developing software for human beings as a human for over a decade. I have got a chance to visit various domains and technologies during this time; The experience has shaped the way I think and work now. I like to create software and help other developers like me around. I have recently been interested in connecting the dots, making concepts available in layman's terms and helping bridge the gap between specialists (usually developers) and other stakeholders. I believe everyone attached to a concept should have a right to completely and concisely understand it, enabling them to contribute to the purpose. I have been working on recent technologies like NodeJS, React, Docker, Kubernetes, Electron, and others. My main focus is on problem-solving, irrespective of the platform usually. However, knowing platforms give me an edge over someone that might not.

LinkedIn
[amiralijiwani](#)

Github
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Work

SEEK

Engineering Manager 2024-05-20 - Present
(Secondment)

In absence of engineering manager for the team, be the guide to keep the team happy towards fulfilling organization goals

- Think platform and place our team at the right spot with right sets of remits
- Exemplify stake-holder management
- Help team form opinions about what good looks like and how to communicate it
- Take lead in helping team form necessary OKRs to perform quarterly
- Help team members technically around various initiatives
- Care and work for the wellbeing of the team members
- Help team members with their promotion cases alongside their pitch
- Help product owners and team members bridge to form a roadmap view, ready to make us successful
- Talk about matters around team health, team values and team progress; Not just transparency but how to improve each pillar

SEEK

Lead Engineer

2023-02-15 - Present

Working with other platform teams and residing under the online identity space, leading a team of engineers to build the right tools engineered in a reasonable fashion

- Exemplify being a senior team member; Available, willing to help and leading by example
- Helping the journey of organization to fulfil the goal of unifying systems to the selected one
- Architect various big and small pieces of the system wherever necessary. It involves rewriting several heavy-weight components to fit the need; sometimes, it may require a clean slate implementation of the parts of the system
- Voice out an opinion that helps the team to think in the right direction
- Partner with Staff engineer and Engineering manager to help steer team in the right focus area
- Nourishing junior members with SEEK values and behaviors
- Participate in conversations with various system stakeholders to achieve the best outcome possible
- Articulate problems that are understandable and approachable by teams and stakeholders
- Help multiple actors in the team to understand and get around the problem in layman terms
- Propose architecture for various system needs, implement them, and vocalize them within multiple teams

PicklesAuctions

Senior Principal Engineer

2022-07-01 - 2023-02-09

Leading several teams, working on solutions based upon distributed computing to make the e-commerce scene under the global travel space alive

- Exemplify being a senior team member, not limited to the delivery but as someone colleagues can look up to for holding values
- Be a catalyst to execute and deliver the system from the current state to the imagined one
- Architect various big and small pieces of the system wherever necessary. It involves rewriting several heavy-weight components to fit the need; sometimes, it may require a clean slate implementation of the parts of the system
- Infuse and practice a culture of learning while performing the duties
- Participate in conversations with various system stakeholders to achieve the best outcome possible
- Articulate problems that are understandable and approachable by teams and stakeholders
- Take on the ownership of various projects within the ecosystem to deliver and maintain them
- Help relatively junior team members have the spark to shine and help them shine
- Propose architecture for various system needs, implement them, and vocalize them within multiple teams

Agoda

Software Engineering Manager

2022-03-14 - 2022-07-12

Leading several teams, working on solutions based upon distributed computing to make the e-commerce scene under the global travel space alive

- Working with teams to migrate long-running legacy systems to a newer and a better stack
- Keeping track of the learning abilities of my team so that they can progress in their respective careers and interests
- Having 1:1s to shape up the team culture and align them with essential matters at the organization
- Build a mindset and culture of quality first; Owning our stuff and converting them to quality artefacts and systems
- Help the organization envision what moving away from legacy could mean and preach the benefits within the team(s)
- Help the team understand Agility at work and take them through ceremonies; This helps the team give their best following sprints

- Making an effort around organizational values, so it lives within the team and work we do.

Gaditek

Software Engineering Manager 2021-03-29 - 2022-03-02

Provided leadership across the engineering organization for the aspects of hiring, processes, architecture, grooming individuals and solving complex problems

- Introduced a hiring process and its custodianship (aka The Hiring Squad!)
- Enabled the eco-system of documentation keeping and taking tools along with helping the team to use them day-in-day-out
- Conducted 1:1s with team members to keep their inspirations and motivations up
- Helped to bootstrap various products for a quick test with the upcoming consumer markets for the organization
- Been a part of the team and the solution for complex problems like NotificationCenter, Auth provider selection and payment gateway solution
- Created and vocalized a process of hiring interns and turning them into fellow beings
- Led and represented the engineering department of the organization
- Proactively participated in converting an old-school organization to an organization with agility
- Helped and created career progression for various individuals in the organization
- Proactively involved me with HR to discuss and demystify challenging problems
- Introduced and have been the most potent catalyst in changing our product platform to be the cross-platform product
- Enabled ways to bring in new dimensions to the product evolution, which were held back because of the absence of engineering leadership
- Focus on quality deliverables -- Provided guidance to bring in an appropriate SDLC
- I got involved and got my hands dirty with architecture decisions at various organizational levels

SEEK

Software Engineering Manager 2020-02-01 - 2021-03-22

SEEK is a diverse group of companies that have a unified purpose to help people live more fulfilling and productive working lives and help organisations succeed.

- Contributed to SEEKs overall product & technology strategy and aligned systems with that strategy
- Ensured that systems were fit for purpose, well-architected and followed current SEEK development practices
- Maintained platform health by ensuring that our systems are secure, reliable, resilient and cost-effective
- Drove customer focus to ensure that we deliver excellent outcomes for our customers
- Commenced and maintained a high performing team culture that values collaboration, learning and continual improvement
- Acted as an enabler; Grew my team's technical skills and leadership capabilities through coaching and mentoring. This involves having 1:1s with my teammates
- Lead by example, Which required me to get my hands dirty when needed
- Unblocked the team with whatever it took, having complete ownership of maintaining healthy teams
- Celebrated successes and learnt from the failures; propagated the culture through the teams and exemplified it for the rest of the organization
- Paired with the Principal Engineer of the team to understand the climate and the team's problems
- Participated in and retro-ed the core hiring process through a centralized hiring squad
- Helped the org to move fast to the ecosystem of global products; Away from the local products which we have been dealing with for the past 25+ years

SEEK

Lead Software Architect 2018-07-02 - 2020-01-31

SEEK is a diverse group of companies that have a unified purpose to help people live more fulfilling and productive working lives and help organisations succeed.

- Been the catalyst for transforming the organization
- Performed the duties as the JavaScript coach for the organization
- Advocated for and implemented software best practices
- Have been the communicator for various teams to maintain their health; sometimes preached the organization's values
- Participated as a core in hiring new and experienced talents
- Propagated automation as a culture rather than an option
- Moved legacy code and data to cloud via lift & shift, greenfield and brownfield methodologies
- Performed the duties of deciding and validating sensible defaults for the organization
- Pushed cloud-first approach in the org, living in an environment of Infra ops
- With the help of fellow architects, I invested time in a flourishing framework of single identity throughout SEEK systems; We did this through educating, enabling, and supporting the needful tools for the teams
- Created several SDKs for a single identity solution within Seek with complete automation and tests. Later helped teams adopt them into various systems

Exact

Senior Software Engineer (Full-Stack) 2016-09-19 - 2018-01-27

We are Exact. We make smart business software. We are entrepreneurial and dream big, just like you. We help and encourage anyone we work with to always be the best version of themselves.

- Helped to come up with an end-to-end pipeline to build and release the product
- Performed various tasks, including coding, building, testing, releasing and debugging the product
- Made massive use of automation, including development and release cycles
- Helped to produce tools that are helpful during the lifecycle of the product. Usually as a need to support the development
- Helped POC the product initially with our customers to set up our product owner for the product's success
- Created a framework single-handedly to help my fellow teammates with the needs of React Navigation and enable them to flourish their work distributedly and without flaws
- Created and open-sourced a library that behaves as a HOC for navigation matters around React space
- Created an in-house tool (based on ElectronJS) for various development teams that helps with the consumption of APIs without open API specs (legacy systems)

Hexosys

Senior Software Engineer 2016-01-02 - 2016-09-30

Accomplishing more than 150 main products as cutting-edge technology protocol/bus analyzers, reveals great ability of HexoSys to delivering new projects within the field of expertise with complete maturity and high competitive to the global high-tech market.

- Helped in a complete overhaul and rewriting of parts of the Albaloo product
- Added the ability to target users through multi communication channels (SMS, emails, mobile notifications etc.)
- Helped product with identifying with and implementing the ability of geo fencing the ads in the current platform
- Introduced a custom framework on top of Laravel's current implementation to support custom JavaScript loading in the layout
- Initialized and laid the basis for automation in the project, simplifying and making some tedious tasks process-oriented
- Helped teams with mocks to let them produce their artefacts accordingly. Later replaced with the accurate data bounded by the contracts

- Helped in versioning the APIs so that various teams in the organization consume their needed bits and are working harmoniously

Experian

Senior Software Developer 2014-07-23 - 2015-11-30

Accomplishing more than 150 main products as cutting-edge technology protocol/bus analyzers, reveals great ability of HexoSys to delivering new projects within the field of expertise with complete maturity and high competitive to the global high-tech market.

- Assisted developers with a better approach to the problem at hand. I have to talk with my Team lead and the Architect to finalise a software architecture decision
- Primarily worked on the architectural aspects of the code, but I sometimes had the requirement to fix bugs and further minor changes
- Got myself certified with CITA-F to get relevant in the architecture escape and software practices
- Helped with adopting EHAB in various parts of our legacy application
- Debugged and fixed various system parts containing loads of stored procedures and complex SQL queries

Pi-Labs

Chief Technology Officer 2010-07-10 - 2014-03-30

Our passion for mobile software and our ability to deliver engaging solutions has given us much acclaim. Early adoption of Windows Phone 7 meant we were one of the first companies globally to have produced an app for the Microsoft Marketplace. Yet, our expertise encompasses the breadth of the smartphone ecosystems, including iOS, Android and Palm's WebOS.

- This was my earliest position as a technical leader, and I was going through significant learning
- Helped organization with various services-based projects; Dealt with multiple platforms and technologies
- Created, architected and maintained a homegrown idea that later shifted to become Garfield's official game, Feed Garfield. The internal project name was Candy Pot. It was a team effort
- Created, architected and maintained an idea in collaboration with our partner. It was a video and audio processing app; These were early days when Snapchat didn't exist; The project was named Gulf Talk
- Worked on an aggregator banking solution known as Mobank for UK based banks. Clients were able to control their various accounts through this app
- Pioneered the space of Windows 8 initial launching apps for Microsoft Singapore; some were CNA, DBS Bank Singapore, and The Straits Times Singapore
- Worked on various 2d and 3d games
- Used and improved the Cocos2dx platform to flourish 2d games on cross-platform technologies
- Written several frameworks myself and open-sourced them later to help the community; To mention some: EasyNDK-for-cocos2dx, Easy-CURL-for-PHP
- Gelled along with various individual contributors to help the organization meet its financial goal
- Presented learnings and findings at various university events and global technology events

Education

FAST - NUCES 2006-06-01 - 2010-07-01

- Digital Logic Design
- Assembly Language
- Data Structures
- Design Patterns
- Web Programming
- Compiler Construction

- Concurrent and Distributed Systems
- High Performance Computing
- Database Design

Skills

Web Development

Expert

- HTML
- Javascript

Software Architecture

Advanced

- Design-patterns
- Distributed systems
- Scalability
- Maintainability

Software Development

Proficient

- Sustainability
- Portability
- Scalability
- Reasonability

Problem Solving

Advanced

- CompetitiveProgramming
- Abstract

Draft documentation

Proficient

- docsify
- Github
- MARP
- Joplin
- MermaidJS
- FormsIO

Communication

Competent

- face-2-face
- emails
- presentations
- conference
- buy-in talks
- negotiations
- layman conversions
- 1:1s

Languages

Urdu

Native speaker

English

Fluent

Interests

Home improvements & engineering

- Plumbing
- Electric-appliances
- Civil engineering

Software based home solutions

- IoT
- Home-server
- plex
- raspberry-pi

- cups
- saned

Watching documentaries

- Idiocracy
- Lord-of-the-rings
- movies
- documentaries

References

Amir is surely missed by his team/peers and I think any company would find great benefit with the addition of Amir to their leadership and technical team. Wish you all the best Amir and hope our paths cross again.

— Heinrich Rust

As a colleague Amir is friendly, personable, has an easy manner and great sense of humour. A clear communicator with a voice for radio, Amir is wise head on young shoulders.

— Paul Fitzgerald