Ajit Kolekar

1500 Donegal Drive, Normal, IL 61761   (309) 531-2548

E-mail / LinkedIn / Portfolio

I'm a well-rounded leader with 24 years of IT experience. I have gained a variety of leadership and technical experience while performing roles as Project Manager, Scrum Master, Team Lead, Data Analyst, Java Developer, Host Developer, Subject Matter Consultant, Systems Analyst, Service Analyst, and Onsite-Offshore Coordinator. I believe in lifelong learning and have earned two master's degrees and several designations and certifications, such as AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, PMP, CSM, SAFe Agilist, SASM, CLU, CPCU, and ChFC.

SKILLS

Web Development, Data Science, Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics, Python Programming, R Programming, SQL, Tableau, GitHub, Version One, Qlik Sense, Project Management, Product Management, Servant Leadership, Agile & Waterfall Methodologies, Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC), Performance Testing, Chaos Testing

EXPERIENCE

State Farm Insurance, Bloomington, IL   Jan 2011 - Current

Scrum Master (7 years 1 month)
- Utilized servant leadership skills and agile principles to create high energy environment with sense of urgency and engagement from the team members. Quickly built positive relationships, built cadence and discipline, and successfully made service teams operational as small agile product teams in a very short time.
- Successfully coordinated chaos testing activities, such as documenting and setting up scenarios, conducting game days, and facilitating retrospectives for 20+ product teams to make them production support ready once Personal Lines Auto gets implemented; effectively reducing potential production problems, gaps in alerting and notifications, and delays in problem resolution.
- Facilitated Personal Lines Auto Business Acceptance Testing to keep functional and business checkout on track by addressing more than 900 defects, effectively improving quality of the overall application.
- Innovated automated reports for Business Acceptance Testing to provide accurate and timely information. These reports were used by Personal Lines Auto leadership for making executive decisions.
- Facilitated performance testing activities where screen response times and service performance times were improved below expected service level agreements (SLAs).
- Influenced Scrum Masters Community in Personal Lines Auto to bring quality and consistency in defect management process. Defect quality improved by more than 50% after implementation of the process.
- Implemented several processes such as dependency management and incident management to improve efficiency of the product teams. Created roadmaps and workflows to help teams plan the work appropriately and complete the work on time and with good quality.
- Facilitated discussions with product owners and product managers to document Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) of product teams while focusing on the internal and external customers, product differentiators, and business outcomes.

IT Project Manager Development Assignment (1 year 6 months)
- Successfully led several P&C Claims projects that were confidential, legislative, and time sensitive.
- By exercising Project Management practices, assessed resource utilization of a project to save 10% of project funding and released a skilled resource to be utilized by another project in need.
- Utilized leadership and communication skills along with influence and relationship building to address implementation delays, and got a project implemented before legislative date, helping State Farm avoid potential financial penalties.

Systems Analyst-Web (2 years 7 months)
- Performed various roles, such as Data Analyst, Java Developer, Host Developer, Subject Matter Consultant, Systems Analyst, Service Analyst, and Onsite-Offshore Coordinator.
- Built excellent relationships with business partners from various functional areas and utilized problem solving and analytical skills to provide remarkable customer experience to business partners, resulting in increased customer satisfaction.
- As a key analyst from Financials Payments team during CSR to ECS data conversion, provided directions on complex business rules to convert fields from one database to another resulting in successful and high-quality conversion of the data, and timely implementation of the data conversion project that converted more than 37 million claims records.

Patni Americas, Inc., Cambridge, MA   Feb 1998 – Jan 2011

Senior Software Specialist (13 years)
- Performed various roles, such as Team Lead, Data Analyst, Java Developer, Host Developer, Subject Matter Consultant, Systems Analyst, Service Analyst, and Onsite-Offshore Coordinator.
- Utilized business knowledge while handling incidents and production problems. Continuously followed up until problems were resolved and data was restored. Provided remarkable customer service by providing resolutions in timely manner and with greater accuracy.
- Participated in design, development, and testing of several major projects, such as Electronic Funds Transfer, Consolidated Payments, and Automatic Payments that helped with successful implementation of the projects in timely manner with greater quality.
- Gained two years of people management experience with maximum span of control of nine team members, where I was responsible for growth, recognition, feedback, and annual performance reviews/ratings.

EDUCATION
- Master of Science (MS) in Data Science, Bellevue University, Nebraska, 2022
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Finance, Illinois State University, Illinois, 2009
- Bachelor of Science (BS) in Electronics Engineering, Shivaji University, India, 1996

CERTIFICATIONS/DESIGNATIONS
AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Scrum Master (CSM), SAFe 4 Agilist (SA), SAFe 4 Advanced Scrum Master (SASM), Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), Chartered Financial Consultant (CHFC)

INTERESTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Participated in AWS Deep Racer competition and utilized Python programming for Machine Learning models
- Successfully executed P&C Claims Systems function-wide "Innovation Challenge" campaign
- Gained leadership knowledge through several State Farm Insurance sponsored leadership courses and through Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP)
- Served Project Management Institute - Central IL Chapter for three years as a Director of Mentoring Program
- Served AsiaNET Employee Resource Group as a board member for three years, leading mentoring and programming committees
- Currently serving on CPCU Society's Central IL Chapter Committees as a committee chair and a team member
- Currently serving as a Board member of non-profit organization Dreams Are Possible