Ari Kamlani
AI & ML Strategy, Principal Data Scientist

Background:

My experience is a mixture of Strategy, R&D Technology Incubation & Innovation, Product Management, Client Engagement, and Practitioner within the context of AI algorithm and infrastructure.

Stakeholder Engagement: I often engage with a variety of stakeholders (both internal and external) at different expertise levels and divisions, spanning individual contributors, non-technical audiences (e.g., legal, sales, marketing, finance), senior management, to the executive C-Suite.

ThoughtWorks:

Operate in both a strategic and practioner context across multiple professional services (PS) engagements to grow existing engagements and represent ThoughtWorks AI leadership.

- **Teams**: ThoughtWorks operates via multidisciplinary SQUADS, partnering with client teams, with particular roles varied depending on the specific client engagement, maturity, and SOW.
- **Client Engagements**: Client engagements are varied and operate across multiple business industry verticals. Activities span Pre-Sales, Advisory, Discovery Workshops, Kickoff Planning, and a series of continuous intelligent delivery cycles for near and long term roadmap initiatives.
- **Pre-Sales**: Involved during the early in-bound cycles with sales teams and executive sponsorship, collaborating on pitch decks, and shaping the SOW engagement. Furthermore, this extends to upselling new horizon opportunities.
- **Organization Capabilities**: As ThoughtWorks has employees with varied domain roles and skillsets, with individuals upskilling and transitioning over time, collaborated with the Capabilities division in developmental AI/Data related pathways.
- **Mentorship**: Beyond mentorship to technical peers, guided non-technical audiences towards improving their data literacy and ability to recognize AI opportunities within existing client engagements and potential new in-bound clients.

Skymind:

Skymind operates within the research to production context focused on deep learning modeling algorithm development, experimentation management, and deployment infrastructure.

- **Pre-Sales**: Develop customized client presentation decks, client deep learning demos, and potential early-stage client POCs prior towards adopting signed SOWs for future work.
- **Workshops**: Led public and private vendor workshop training sessions in utilizing our deep learning framework and tooling infrastructure within enterprise settings.
- **Solutions Architecture**: Operating in both a strategic advisory and practioner capacity, facilitated enterprise customers in utilizing our deep learning solutions towards advancing their natural language and computer vision use cases.
- **Technology Partnerships**: In partnership with Intel, incorporated their BLAS optimized math kernel library (MKL) with Intel XEON 2nd Gen CPU processors for benchmarking select sequential use cases. This is in addition to leveraging existing software optimization deployment tradeoffs (e.g., knowledge distillation, mixed precision, quantization, pruning).

Pathmind:

Within the US, Skymind rebranded and shifted towards Industrial service-oriented simulation Reinforcement Learning (DRL), particularly within use cases that may be too risky, expensive or not optimized to repeatedly deploy in a traditional offline/online setting.

- **Technology Partnerships**: In developing the DRL service, we formed partnerships with AnyLogic (simulation engine) and became an early adopter partner of Anyscale OSS (Ray, RLlib).
- **Client Engagements**: In collaboration with AnyLogic customers during the Private Beta, facilitated customer development and solutions architecture of industrial customers in factory assembly sequencing operational use cases.

JP Morgan Chase: Partner with internal business units (BU) on a variety of horizon opportunity investments to drive value across Chase Products and Services for consumers and small businesses.

- **Cross-Functional**: Partner with different non-technical audience BUs for analytical insights and product use cases where Intelligent AI (e.g., personalization, recommender systems) services can demonstrate improved value-add. Translate and communicate technical findings to business stakeholders on a weekly cadence.

Nagra Kudelski Group: The Incubation & Innovation team reports directly to the Executive Board, under the Intellectual Property (IP) umbrella. The team is responsible for research, ideation, pitching new advanced initiatives, crafting MVPs, while collaborating and transitioning projects across BUs.

- **Stakeholder Management:** This particular role is quite unique, as it requires communicating and influencing a wide variety of stakeholders, up to the executive parent organization C-suite and further subsidiary organizations.
- **External Partnerships**: Some projects involve researching and developing relationships with specialized partners, where initially we may not have the expertise internally. Upon demonstrating value, the organization may decide to invest and hire expertise internally.

Techstars Ventures: Techstars is a Venture Accelerator, facilitating startups to scale their next round of seed funding and improve upon their current value proposition.

- **Strategic Advisory**: As the Technologist in Residence (TIR), strategic responsibilities include advising startups (20) to overcome their business & technology hurdles and scale their technology selection, architecture design, and processes.
- **Capabilities**: If the organization does not have the appropriate technology expertise on-hand, responsible for laying the foundation as a "starter kit", such that it can be extended upon.

Conferences / Speaking Engagements:
- Public Speaking:
  - Partner Benchmarking Optimizations - O'Reilly AI – Intel Builders Conference (2019)
  - From Research to Production - Scale by the Bay (2017)
  - Deep Learning - IBM Cognitive Frameworks Festival (2017)
  - Deep Learning - Hortonworks Future of Data (2017)
- Private Conferences, Engagements:
  - Big Data Strategy - Rutgers Center of Education (2019)
  - From Research to Production - Bank of America AI Conference (2019)
  - AI in Regulatory Domains - Draper University Blockchain Pre-Accelerator (2019)
  - Responsible Intelligence - Metis, Columbia Data Science (2018)
- Private Enterprise Vendor Workshops
  - Deep Learning Modeling and Infrastructure - Bank of America (2019)
  - Natural Language Deep Learning Tutorial Sessions – BSI Software (2019)
- Conference Panels:
  - Refactoring with Martin Fowler and Friends - Data Day Texas, Austin Texas (Jan 2019)
  - What's next for AI & Cognitive Technologies - UiPath Together (2018)
- Emcee:
  - Big Data and AI, Toronto (2020)
  - Data Natives, Germany (2020)
  - Next Gen Data Security Panel - Blockchain without Borders Token Expo (2018)