JACK SENECHAL

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INTRODUCTION

Seasoned Principal Software Engineer with a proven track record in team leadership and software development, aiming to transition into an AI Engineer or Manager role to drive AI innovation and contribute significantly to globally impactful technologies.

As a seasoned Principal Software Engineer with a rich history of leading teams through complex and challenging projects, I am now focusing my expertise towards the AI industry. With a goal to transition into an AI Engineer or Manager role, and ultimately into ML research, I aspire to contribute to world-changing technologies that enhance humanity's future.

At Kantata, I honed my leadership capabilities, transforming teams to navigate and succeed in demanding environments. I specialize in building cohesive units that excel in software development, marked by a track record of stabilizing critical systems and steering them towards success. My leadership philosophy is rooted in empathy, collaboration, and transparency, drawing inspiration from Lao Tzu's teachings on subtle yet effective guidance.

In my technical journey, I have consistently balanced precision and pragmatism, ensuring that the products we develop are not only technically sound but also valuable and user-friendly. This combination of technical acumen and leadership skill positions me uniquely for roles where managing teams and driving AI innovation are paramount.

My ambition is clear: to contribute significantly to the AI field, leveraging my experience to lead teams in developing technologies that make a tangible difference. I am eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities in AI, with a vision of eventually founding a company at the intersection of AI and globally impactful tech.

In sum, I offer a blend of seasoned leadership, technical expertise, and a deep commitment to meaningful innovation, ready to make a significant impact in the AI industry.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Principal Software Engineer, Kantata

(2017 - Dec 2023)

Team lead, M-Bridge platform (2 years):

- Lead a new team to stabilize and improve an agent-based integration platform
- Established operational metrics; reduced errors and incidents by ~100x
- Zero-downtime infrastructure migration into kubernetes, including several databases

Team lead, Insights platform (3 months):

- Lead a short transition team overseeing and improving the BI data pipeline
- Migrated the pipeline to kubernetes

Team lead, Ops team (4 years):

- Recruited and lead a new team focused on building and scaling the infrastructure platform
- Lead transition towards a DevOps culture throughout the organization
- Established a clear, calm, constructive environment in which the team could thrive
- Roadmap stewardship, untangling requirements, arranging priorities to maximize flow
- Transitioned a large legacy infrastructure codebase to cutting edge, cloud-native, IAC-oriented tools
- Coding, architecture, and collaboration on numerous mission-critical projects

Additional / cross-functional:

- Mentorship and coaching
- Interviewing and hiring

- Organizational change management and process optimization

Lead Developer, Co-founder, Pegg

(2014 - 2017)

- Development: Design, architecture, and implementation of cross-platform mobile game targeted at iOS and Android via PhoneGap.
- Team Processes: Implementing and honing development workflow with agile methods such as pair programming, testing, and continuous integration. Developing launch strategy, setting up processes and workflows to enable rapid response to issues.
- Business Strategy: product design, monetization strategy, marketing strategy, as well as contributing to the company's mission, vision, and governance models.
- Technology: Famo.us/Flux front-end, Parse/Node backend, Firebase for realtime notifications and chat, Webpack and Gulp build environment, Karma/Chai testing, and continuous deployment to AWS/Cloudfront via CircleCI.

Consultant and Entrepreneur

(2008 - 2014)

- 2014 - Rapid prototyping of global-graph technologies using XDI. Integration of XDI services with existing Ruby on Rails application. Launched beta cloud name service based on XDI and Node.js.
- Superluminal Systems - 2013 - Helped to develop the Superluminal Learning Management System and launch the first client site. Building data visualizations and UI elements in D3. Wordpress plugin wrangling, development and customization.
- OpenTest Pro, LLC - 2008 - 2012 - Founded the company to provide educational resources relating to automated testing and continuous integration using open source tools in a PHP environment. Technical writing, web application development in Ruby on Rails and Flex, studio voiceover recording, and project management.
- Turnbull & Asser shirtmakers - 2009 - Built a virtual showroom for their bespoke department, allowing users to browse fabrics and place orders. Ruby on Rails backend, Flash frontend.

Web Developer, OnForce, Inc

(2006 - 2007)

- Introduced automated testing and continuous integration. Implemented comprehensive test suite for the public-facing API.
- Project managed the implementation of Salesforce throughout the company, and oversaw the administration of the application.
- Integrated OnForce platform with Salesforce APIs to provide up-to-date customer information for sales and support teams.

Development Lead, JBA Network

(2003 - 2006)

- Project manager and lead programmer for mynewsletterbuilder.com. Architected and implemented the initial release, and later oversaw the development team for the project.
- Developed a modular, evented, MVC programming framework.
- Concept development, project management, and programming for other company products and services, including www.jukeboxalive.com and www.byregion.net.
- Systems administration and networking (Linux, Windows).

Intern, US Navy FNMOD

(2001)

- Programmer, database designer for the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment.
- Migrated Navy weather data from a flat text format to a MySQL database.
- Wrote a Java application to quality check, normalize, and convert weather data to a MySQL-accessible format.

EDUCATION

BA in Mathematics, minor in Computer Science from the University of North Carolina at Asheville (May, 2003)

RECOMMENDATIONS

"Jack is an exceptional engineer and leader. He strives to deeply understand the technology he's working on while remaining cognizant of the socio-technical components that may be a factor in any project. He's thorough, detail-oriented, and outcome-oriented, which means the solutions he architects, builds, and collaborates on come out better. Jack also strives to be at the forefront of new technology and assess how he can leverage it. Newer tech like GenAI can be complex and ever-evolving, and

Jack is not one to back down but step up and embrace. He does all this with a strong team mentality, is a phenomenal team player, and can effectively delegate to help lift others' skill sets."

– Brandon Clifford, Director of DevOps, Kantata

"Jack is a fantastic engineer always ready to help solve problems and more importantly, teach you how to solve them. He guided me and my team through a bunch of challenging gitops situations with patience and kindness, leading by example. Always diligent with his work, willing to roll up his sleeves to get things done and find creative solutions, maybe tinkering in some kind of script that would make the manual processes easier and more resilient. Everyone would be lucky to have someone like him in their teams!"

– Cesar Palafox Garza, Principal Software Engineer, Kantata

"Jack has had quite a profound impact on my career. As a young engineer, I was fortunate enough to work with Jack as my coach. He served as a great mentor, helping me build both technical and professional skills and forming me into the engineer that I am today. Throughout our time together, Jack was caring and invested in helping me set goals and develop my career. His mentorship was a key factor in elevating myself from an incoming Junior Engineer to an Engineering Manager. Jack has a great curiosity and a strong set of technical capabilities that allow him to serve as a great example for others and a key contributor to any team!"

– Wesley Morlock, Engineering Manager, Kantata

"Jack provided invaluable leadership as a Principal Software Engineer at Kantata. He was a powerful voice for the technology but made sure to advocate for changes that were also certain to provide immediate impact to the customer. I highly recommend Jack as a excellent dev ops engineer and as a technical leader."

– Nathan Perry, Principal Software Engineer, Kantata

"Jack is talented both as software developer and as an operations engineer. While working together in a Principal Engineer capacity, I saw how passionate Jack is about helping his colleagues and his organization level up. He is a great engineer with excellent leadership and organizational abilities."

– Jason Larsen, Software Engineering Manager, Kantata

"Jack is a great co-worker. He is awesome at understanding the direction teams need to go to make important improvements in Kantata's Engineering organization as a whole. He has been instrumental in building and implementing strategies to upgrade Ruby, Rails, and React. If I had any questions about infrastructure and Kubernetes he would be able to answer and provide solid explanations to the entire team."

– Justin Hurstwright, Principal Software Engineer, Kantata

"Jack is a phenomenal resource to work with. He is very knowledgeable about programming and cloud infrastructure and is always eager to learn new things."

– Donovan Hubbard, Senior DevOps Engineer, Kantata

"Jack has a flair for finding better, faster, and more reliable ways to get things done. He advocates best practices, like unit testing, and has a deep knowledge of OO architecture. Jack thinks on his toes, and will always be there with the team at 4 a.m. if circumstance requires it. `:%s/average developers/developers like jack/g` if you know what's good for you."

– Greg Whitescarver, Founder, Mojave

"With Jack, the more complex the problem, the more simple his solutions. From eradicating dynamic php bugs to providing innovative javascript capabilities, Master Senechal is more than a mind to be reckoned with, he's an integrative capacity builder with a wide range of technological expertise. If there is anything that can be done through web development, Jack can figure out how to do it, and make it happen."

– Adam Apollo, Cofounder & CEO, Superluminal Systems