SUBHRANATH CHUNDER

• Location: Navi Mumbai, India
• subhranath@gmail.com • (+91)-9711484955
• LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/subhranath-chunder-a0105024/

I build tech products, teams and culture

SUMMARY:
- Hands-on senior tech leader with ~14 years of experience with startups, primarily directly with founders from IIT/IIMs
- 10 years in leadership positions like VP/CTO
- Built tech products and teams from scratch, used by millions of users
- And I code as well! (primarily in Python)

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Built tech based products throughout my official career of ~14 years
- Coding since the last ~18 years
- Created Zopper and Fynd products and engineering teams from scratch
  - **Zopper e-commerce division: Acquired by PhonePe, from the Flipkart/Walmart group**
  - **Fynd: Directly invested by Google, eventually acquired by Jio Reliance Retail division**

ACHIEVEMENTS:

@Zomato, Trinka AI, ShopSe [Directly reporting to Business Head/CEO/Co-Founder]:
- ShopSe, supporting the digital business growth in the digital lending sector, up to INR 90+ Crore monthly
- Collaborated with the data science teams to optimize Python codes and release newer NLP and LLM models of our AI products at Trinka.ai/Crimson.ai
- Re-built referral service for Zomato's Hyperpure platform entirely hands-on with AWS serverless architecture
- Identified and optimized numerous bad-performing bottlenecks in a legacy .NET codebase at Zomato for 4 months with 200+ db queries originating from the controller layer
- Integrating development pipelines with DevSecOps
- Reduced downtime by 99%
- Reduced infra expenditures by up to 60%
- Setting up of AWS OU and AWS server-less projects in parallel

@Emxcel [Directly reporting to Founder and MD]:
- Launched a couple of SaaS products in consumer space: the hyperlocal e-commerce and community management products in the covid-era
- Scaled tech team and quality significantly, while expanding the team size from 100 to ~200
- Led senior teams having up to 35 years of tech experience
- Revamp of organization structure which was struggling for 3.5 years since inception
- Brought in the best tech practices and thought process changes

@Quantum Inventions [Directly reporting to Group CEO and CTO in Singapore]:
- Stepping into the role of first Country Head of Engineering in India for QI in 2018
- Scaling and supporting global releases for Quantum Inventions product lineups
- Managed global team engagement up to 70 with in-direct reporting, from 17 different countries
- Led senior teams including engineers with experience of ~ (14 to 22) years
- Being entirely hands-on to setup and release infra auto-scaling
- Wore multiple hats in Operation, HR, IT, Recruitment along with Engineering Head role, India

@Fynd [Directly reporting to CEO]:
- Handled 5 million MAUs in Sept 2017, with registered user-base crossing 30 million
- Handled easily around ~5K orders/day on tech side, with 99.97% uptime
- Reached 4th position in Android Play Store and in Apple App Store ranking at its peak
- Built and led an engineering team of ~35 engineers
- Actively led the efficient Infra team of only 2 people majorly managing 120+ servers
- Supporting 8K+ RPS for dynamic non-assets
- Created and launched the Fynd platform in less than 3 months from start date
- Spearheaded the development of the Fynd OpenAPI project along with Google's US team

@Zopper [Directly reporting to CEO and Co-founder]:
- Was the 2nd employee of this early stage startup
- Built and led ~45 engineering team
- Coded ~90% of the platform backend for the first release at Zopper, and around 60% 3 yrs later

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Build product
- Build tech culture
- Hire, lead and manage team

TECH BACKGROUND:

- Started career in IC roles building tech products, primarily on both backend and infra/devops side
- Hands-on personal expertise around Python and other cutting-edge open-source tech stacks, since 2009
- Early adopter of Python as a web stack with:
  - Pre-stable Django 0.96, MongoDB, Redis, Solr and Fabric in pre-2010/2011 era
  - Google App Engine over django-non-rel projects
- Designing solutions, architecting them, single handedly executing them to production
- Proud to have built highly efficient, excellent teams and culture along with various founders on 0 to 1 journey
- Build the super optimized search functionality on Solr from scratch with 300 million docs in sub-10ms API response time, handling 70% of user traffic
- Released the first version of AI chatbot Fify.ai in 2016 using wit.ai and api.ai to enable new user shopping journey
- Post-2010 started hands-on adaptation of SoA and eventually micro-services based architecture using:
  - Stable Django, Flask, Falcon, Tornado, Sanic
  - Super optimized search engine solutions using Solr, with millions of docs running under crazy traffic
  - Infra automations using Salt, Ansible, Vagrant, Packer, Terraform, Vault
  - Autoscaling setups on AWS
  - Built serverless applications via Python, Chalice, DynamoDB, API Gateway, Lambda on AWS

DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES:

- Head engineering, provide technical and strategic leadership
- Device and execute engineering plans and roadmaps along with other cross functional leaders
- People management, recruiting, empowering, growth planning
- Working towards making engineers and the organization more effective
- Department budgeting, reviews and optimizations
- Help in system designs, and architecture
- Looking into existing major backend and infrastructure bottlenecks, hurdles and infra metrices
- Review architecture web and mobile based product backend and infrastructure
- Manage infrastructure and scaling, ensuring product uptime and availability strategies
- Innovate with product and tech
- Occasional coding in Python

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Built multiple teams from scratch
- Managed high-performance local teams from 0 to 200 people
- Global team engagement of upto 70 with in-direct reporting, from 17 different countries
- Generally had direct reporting of around 10 to 12 from VP/Director/EM levels to me
- Most critical senior tech leaders from the backend, platform, and infra worked with me directly
- Led senior tech leaders aged up to 55 years experience

CULTURE:

- Hands-on leadership
- Coded and architected 60 to 100% of the backends for the initial versions of the tech products
- Mentoring, leading and empowering engineers to be better leaders
- Engineering-first focus
- Teams built from scratch are the best ones in India and globally

CAREER JOURNEY:

- Majority of the career worked with early to mid-sized startups
- Worked as the top-most tech face for the company for around 9 years, letting others focus on solving
- Generally worked with high-performing individuals and teams, with build first or fail-fast attitude
- Handled hard decision to layoff 200 engineers in batches, without any further funds
- Personally took multiple hard decisions around course corrections of the organization
- Disclaimer: Been through many ups and downs of success and failure during the stints at startups!

EDUCATION:

• Master of Science in Computer Applications	SICSR, Pune	Symbiosis International University, Pune	2008 - 2010	3.175 out of 4 CGPA

[Core JAVA – 3.82 out of 4 GP,
  Data Structures using C++ – 4 out of 4 GP]

• Bachelor of Computer Applications	BIT, Mesra	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra	2005 - 2008	7.12 out of 10 CGPA [77.20 %]

[C Programming – 17 out of 20 GP,
  Programming in JAVA – 20 out of 20 GP,
  Data Structures using C – 17 out of 20 GP]

WORK HISTORY:

2022, Dec – Current date	Freelance Consultant – Consultant CTO and Architect	Working part-time on Python powered projects majorly to optimize on code, infra and data science model implementations, deployment, integrations and DevOps/MLOps
2022, May – 2022, Nov	**Sr VP Engineering – ShopSe**, Mumbai, India	Heading engineering for the fintech organization, founded by Ex-PayU, Lazypay team from IIT/IIM background
2021, Sep – 2022, Apr	**CTO – Trinka.ai**, Mumbai, India	Looking into overall product tech decision making in the process of further scaling the organization. Also setting up the new adaptation of AWS OU on infra side in parallel, for next stage of growth and management efficiency
2020, Jun – 2021, Jun	**CTO – Emxcel**, Gurgaon, India	Came in to drive the technical direction of the organization group. Leading company's overall technology output, and shaping it up for the future. Having ~200 engineers at peak
2019, Sep – 2020, Feb	**Engineering Leadership** at Hyperpure **Zomato**, Gurgaon, India	Hired to be the next CTO of Hyperpure by Zomato
2018, Sep – 2019, Aug	**Country Head of Engineering India,** Officially Senior Architect – **Quantum Inventions**, Kolkata, India *[HQ at Singapore, subsidiary of Continental Corporation, Germany]*	Appointed as the Country Head of Engineering at Quantum Inventions Development Centre, India internally after a tenure of 15 weeks into organization. Working with Central Technology team, Chapter and Competency Global and Local leads, with added responsibility of team support, resourcing, reporting, etc.
2015, May – 2017, Sep	**VP Engineering – Fynd** Now part of Jio Group, Mumbai, India	Heading Engineering. Built a world class tech product and team from scratch
2011, Nov – 2015, Jan	**VP Engineering – Zopper** Delhi NCR, India E-commerce arm acquired by PhonePe	Head technology. E-commerce business and product created from scratch, to it's total ownership from tech side.
2010, Nov – 2011, Oct	Working as Python/Django developer	Making open source contributions, and working with startups in the Delhi NCR region
2009, Dec – 2010, Nov	Technical Analyst Srijan Technologies, New Delhi, India	Django Developer

MAJOR PROJECT INVOLVEMENTS:

Project Title:	**Bohni.ai** – [Project Closed Down]
Technologies Used: [Core level hands-on]	Django 4.1.6, Python 3.11.1, PyTorch, Stable Diffusion, AWS, MySQL
Project Description:	Bohni AI helped SMEs get more customers and increase their sales by providing GPT based AI solutions. Generating personalized content based on user profile and engaging target user base from large social platforms like Facebook, Google, Instagram though chains of automations using AI
Role:	Tech prototype development. Backend and infra setups
Major Responsibilities:	- Build initial prototype - Collaboration with the data science team - Manage the entire infra/devops and team building activities

Project Title:	**Podium** (www.podium.school) – [Closed down 2 years after a Seed funded round]
Technologies Used: [Core level hands-on]	AWS Serverless Architecture, Python 3.8, Chalice 1.18.1, AWS Lambda, AWS API Gateway, DynamoDB, AWS CloudFront, AWS S3
Project Description:	Initially built as Netflix for edtech, an online platform, Podium school was a Super Teachers led global platform for young children in 5 to 17 years age bracket, to be taught the best co-curricular education.
Role:	Heading the entire tech piece of the product. Built with API-first approach around POSTMAN.
Major Responsibilities:	- Build and run the tech platform - Look into everything on tech aspect - Co-ordination with product team, designer, and frontend team to integrate using Nuxt, a Vue framework

Project Title:	Hyperpure Referrals Micro-service
Company:	**Zomato**
Technologies Used: [Core level hands-on]	Python 3.7, Chalice 1.12.0, AWS Lambda, AWS API Gateway, DynamoDB, AWS CloudWatch, AWS CloudFront
Duration:	December 2019 – February 2020
Project Description:	Referrals micro-service to manage, monitor and grow the user acquisition channels for Hyperpure by Zomato
Role:	To build this service with hands-on owner ship. This can scale infinitely as and when the usage increases, built on AWS Serverless infrastructure with on-demand application and database scaling
Major Responsibilities:	- Build the service from scratch, and make it live - Get this mirco-service integrated with the rest of the Hyperpure system - Code once, keep it re-usable, use it for ever without any infrastructure management overheads

Project Title:	**Fynd** (www.gofynd.com)
Company:	Shopsense Retail Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
Technologies Used: [Core level hands-on]	Python 2.7, Django 1.8, Tornado, Flask, MongoDB, MySQL, Redis, Apache Solr, Ansible, Jenkins, nginx, uwsgi, RabbitMQ, celery, S3, Cloudfront, VPC, ALB, Elasticsearch, New Relic
Other techs used: [Limited hands-on]	HashiCorp Stack, Packer, Terraform, node.js, AngularJS, Spring, Webpack, Grunt, Jasmine BDD, Android, Objective-C
Duration:	May 2015 – September 2017
Project Description:	Shopping app for apparels where latest in-store fashion products can be bought from the largest of fashion brands with a few clicks from mobile or laptop. As a consumer facing e-commerce platform with omni-channel integrations, it was designed with micro-services architecture from day one, with a high performance technology stack. Check https://goo.gl/lZN0AE for an early stage architecture overview. **On scale, Fynd reached 4th position in Android Play Store and in Apple App Store on 16th Aug 2016, in Shopping category in India.** At it's peak it ranked just after Amazon. Flipkart, and Paytm.
Role:	Heading the technology department of the company. Built the app for Android and iOS platforms along with it's backend, in less than 3 months along with a very competitive technical team around it. Initially involved 60:40 in coding and management, and then it was around 15 – 20 % as coding and rest of the time in strategic management and support.

Major Responsibilities:	- Head the tech department of ~35 odd engineers - Build, manage and ensure product up-time and availability - Hire, manage and maintain technical edge of the company - Strategize execution of roadmap - Guide and handle any high priority problem or bottleneck which popped up from anyone - Understanding the challenges faced by other stakeholders, and arriving at optimal solutions - Finalizing and discussion on product roadmap along with the founding team - Work towards people and their happiness management - Preparing and maintaining the engineering ladder. Mentor members towards the right direction - Review and appraisal for the engineering department engineers

Project Title:	**Zopper** (www.zopper.com) [Formerly known as Reviews42]
Company:	Solvy Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Technologies Used: [At core level hands-on]	Python 2.7, Django 1.4.2, Django, Flask, MySQL, MongoDB, memcached, Apache Solr, RabbitMQ Redis, Ansible, apache https, nginx, gunicorn, RabbitMQ, celery, AWS EC2, VPC, S3, New Relic
Other techs used: [Limited hands-on]	Android, Objective-C, Bootstrap
Duration:	November 2011 – January 2015
Project Description:	Till early 2015 Zopper was a hyper-local shopping app for mobile, and other high-end consumable electronics. Initially it started out as the first-ever reviews and product research platform in India. The idea of the product was to build an eco-system to ease product purchase decisions of a buyer. Product discovery, user reviews, structured specifications, online price comparison of 600+ e-com stores, local stores pricing availability from over 22 cities in India were some of the provided goodies. The product was available on both web and mobile platforms. A highly scalable, integrable, and portable technical product at the base. Making sure these factors doesn't add to performance degradation. Designed as a SOA based software platform, and powered by it's cutting edge open source software stack, it's a platform designed to perform.
Role:	To architect and build, taking charge of development and deliver this product as the technical platform. Stepping into the shoes of Head of tech department, pseudo CTO of the company
Major Responsibilities:	- Lead the technology team, from day 1 and 2nd employee in the company - At peak heading around ~45 odd engineers - Deliver and develop the product - Designing technical strategies/solutions - Setting up and managing the entire back-end server infrastructure - Understanding the technical feasibility of product road-map items and plan for it accordingly with the senior-management leadership team

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?:
- Open for awesome tech leadership roles, for both IC and management
- Special interest in hands-on R&D opportunities
- Open for relocation

PASSIONATE ABOUT:
- Creating high performance back-ends. DevOps/infra automation
- Framework based backend development (Chalice/Serverless, Flask, Django, Sanic, GAE)
- Building world class products and teams
- Acting as the catalyst helping others solve technical challenges
- Cars and road-trips