

Akshay Patil

Product Leader

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Summary

Senior product leader with a strong engineering background. Expertise in consumer, mobile, user generated content, APIs, and search.

Experience building, coaching, and managing product development teams. Was most recently responsible for the consumer ride experience at Lyft. Developed a new revenue source for a Series C startup that has come to define the company.

Experience

Lyft / Product Lead, Ride Experience

July 2018 - August 2021, New York, NY

Leader for the cross-functional team of 60+ people responsible for the consumer ride flow (what most people spend most of their time doing on Lyft).

Increased rides by 5% (~\$800MM/yr revenue) via better user retention from improvements including in-app chat between riders and drivers, waiting experience optimizations, dynamic rider cancel fees, and clearer pickup+dropoff spot selection.

Led multiple cross-organizational efforts, such as

- Lyft's consumer-visible Covid response, including health safety policies and degraded marketplace mitigations.
- A dynamic driver pay policy compensating drivers for time and effort independent of the fee charged riders. Drastically reduced cancel payment tickets and delivered \$XXM/yr in profit via reduced costs.
- An improved system for rider walks and driver navigation to deliver marketplace efficiency improvements (\$XXXMM/yr revenue).
- Rideshare safety regulations at the Federal and State level; shaping requirements and driving company-wide compliance.

Lyft's first product hire outside of the Bay Area and most senior product leader within the broader Rider org. Built a four person product team and was the Product Side Lead for the NYC office.

CNN (Beme) / Director of Product and Engineering

November 2016 - February 2018, New York, NY

Led and managed a 7-person product and engineering team through the acquisition process and the following year, creating a next-generation news experience for mobile using CNN's unique media resources. Owned product roadmap and built a 2-person design team.

Beme [Acquired by CNN] / Product Lead

August 2016 - November 2016, New York, NY

Ran product and helped build the 6-person engineering team. Defined and executed the product roadmap for Beme, a mobile video app for effortlessly capturing and sharing everyday personal moments with over a million downloads. Partnered with and reported to the co-founders.

Chat That (Samsung Accelerator) / Founder & CEO

July 2014 - March 2015, New York, NY

Founded and secured \$1 million of initial funding for a new company within Samsung's startup incubator to explore ideas around personal communication. Recruited a design co-founder and two person engineering team, built an initial prototype used inside the accelerator, managed the roadmap and budget, and advised other companies in the program.

Foursquare / Platform Product Lead

March 2011 - January 2014, New York, NY

Owned product and business strategy for Foursquare's API and data. Developed and executed a monetization strategy for licensing Foursquare data and technology which became Foursquare's key revenue source in its path to profitability.

Google / Senior Software Engineer & Product Manager

July 2005 - March 2011, New York, NY

Product managed and tech led breaking news products within the Google Search team. Designed and implemented infrastructure systems and fullstack features for Blogger and Google Search.

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bachelors of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics

September 2000 - June 2004, Cambridge, MA

Master of Engineering in Computer Science

September 2004 - June 2005, Cambridge, MA

Thesis: Expanded a symbolic framework, enabling a class of protocols using cryptographic signatures to be provably secure. (Thesis Supervisor: Ronald L. Rivest)