# Bharat Agarwal

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## EXPERIENCE

**Jan 2025 – present**
Gurgaon

**Qolaba,** *Tech Lead* ⧉

I entered the tech industry late, and I'm approaching my mid-30s now. I've been wanting more responsibility for a while, and the founders of the company offered me a chance at leadership.

Shopify was one of the more progressive companies when it came to AI, but I felt like I was not focussing on the right thing. I'm the guy who had three concurrent ChatGPT Plus subscriptions because I would run out of requests. Ask my friends about it! The change is transformational, and I believe every engineer needs to learn how to orchestrate.

As a bonus, I get to work with the founders out of an office, and together we eat, sleep, drink AI. We unwind playing FIFA, talk shit, and get things done fast. It barely feels like work.

*Stack: OpenAI, GCP, Neo4j, Vercel, Replit, GraphRAG*

**Jul 2024 – Jan 2025**
Bangalore + Gurgaon

**Shopify,** *Software Engineer* ⧉

Wow, talk about a level-up. I met some of the kindest, grittiest, most talented engineers of my life at Shopify. I'm a pretty self-assured guy on the worst of days, but imposted syndrome hit me for the first time at this company.

I joined the Production Engineering team at Shopify, the first hire in the infrastructure org in India. My team was fully remote, with teammates across Europe, US and Canada. Much like with Atlassian, I began to see the scope of the company's achievement only after joining them. Click Inspect on any decent e-commerce site, and you'll see "shopify" somewhere in the source, like more than 50% of the time.

I got to participate in scale testing for Black Friday/Cyber Monday, known as BFCM internally. We would ask for time from Google to try to reach the target machine count for the final day, and encounter silly things like GCP saying we're out of machines. Now that's scale.

Day-to-day, my team was responsible for facilitating a lot of the zip-zap movement of containers across the fleet on GCP, building a sort of internal AWS console if you will. I got to touch on a variety of things, from optimizing build times in containers to collating the various of machine types in use across the infrastructure. It's THE Rails company, and I picked up a lot of patterns along the way.

*Stack: Kubernetes, GCP, Terraform, Temporal, Rails*

**Sep 2022 – Jun 2024**
Bangalore

**Sabbatical** ⧉

Have you tried to read Designing Data Intensive Applications, and nodded but felt like there were prerequisites you were missing? Then you're like me.Listen, I made a lot of money when tech stocks boomed in 2021. Enough that I'd reached a point where I was not working for money anymore. I was at an inflection point, where I was good at day-to-day stuff, but felt like I wanted to give myself more time to study the important stuff. There was a time when Bradfield was a program taught in-person in San Francisco only, which made attending it a challenge.

After Launch School, I had harebrained plans for traveling to the US, and spending a few months learning from them. They were, and I think remain, one of the few places that are really going after systems. They started offering the program online, and I left my job, and jumped into it. Attending classes bleary-eyed at 5:30 in the morning, it was a real eye-opener, meeting instructors and classmates who were so much better than me.

To be honest, my break ended up extending by a lot more than I intended it to. The tech job market was notoriously bad in 2023, and I was also very picky about the people I want to work with. Luckily, I was still at a point where I wasn't expensive enough to be unaffordable, and got to work on a side project with one of my instructors.

For three months, I got to see what was taught in the classroom be applied in real-life, in time-sensitive and pragmatic circumstances. I also got to approach React.js from an engineering perspective, rather than from do-this-to-get-a-job land. I feel like this really opened me up to being genuinely full-stack.

*Stack: Golang, C, x86 Assembly, React Native, Django*

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| Apr 2020 – Aug 2022<br>Bangalore | **Atlassian,** *Software Engineer* ⧉<br>I went around Bangalore giving talks about how my team built Mothership. We got lots of traction. I presented at a Docker meetup with more than 500 attendees, and at a Distributed Systems meetup at the Atlassian office.<br><br>They liked my work, and offered me a job. This was my first taste of large scale, and wow, was it overwhelming. I knew of Atlassian because of their excellent Git documentation, and that impression continued into my job. This really was a place that knew how to do things right, and I had the pleasure to interact with some really smart, inspiring people.<br><br>I was in two teams:<br><br>Resilience Engineering helped prepare our constellation of microservices for production readiness. Naughtily and silently, we automated chaos engineering experiments on services, and forced owners to make their code resilient to these known faults.<br><br>*Stack: Golang, Chaos Toolkit, GraphQL, Cadence, SSM*<br><br>Jira Migration, on the other hand, was very real-world. We dealt with enterprise clients and harried relations executives migrating their bespoke Jira instances to its cloud version. I got to wrangle with a Java behemoth, and learned a lot about debugging, incident response, and camaraderie in an overloaded team.<br><br>*Stack: Java/Kotlin, Spring Boot, Splunk, SignalFX, DynamoDB, SQS* |
| Oct 2019 – Mar 2020<br>Remote | **Mothership,** *Co-creator & Software Engineer* ⧉<br>What do you get when you bring together three people who've studied together at the same time, and are chomping to do something with their newly acquired skills? An open-source platform-as-a-service for deploying small applications!<br><br>Ian Evans and Jon Kulton were in the US, I was in India. After lots of coffee, late nights, and arguments about how to build things, Mothership was something we were proud of. From the cutest little spaceship logo, to our painstakingly thorough case study, we went about trying to crack the code of making application deployment make sense to your day-to-day software engineer.<br><br>*Stack: Docker, DigitalOcean, Node.js, WebSockets* |
| Sep 2018 – Sep 2019<br>Bangalore | **Self Employed,** *Full Stack Developer*<br>As an adult, online learning has been a real game-changer for me. I first encountered success with Magoosh, a platform for preparing for the GRE. This was probably the first time I felt like I had control over my preparation, and could learn the way I wanted to do: slow, deliberate, thorough. I did great in the GRE, and this made me feel like I could trust myself, and aim high.<br><br>I got a taste of how to code at Jaaga, and wanted to get really really good. And that's what I found at Launch School, whose mastery based learning really clicked for me. This is where I got a taste for backend and cloud-infrastructure, and has informed a lot of how I approach software.<br><br>*Stack: Ruby/Rails, JavaScript/Node.js, Sinatra, PostgreSQL, Heroku* |
| Nov 2016 – Aug 2018<br>Bangalore + Gurgaon | **Self Employed,** *Architect* ⧉<br>At architecture school, I got along famously well with my teachers. After graduating, I joined my formers professors at SpaceMatters as a research associate role.<br><br>Along the way, I learned about Hillhacks and Jaaga, and craving the mountains, I joined a yoga and coding camp near Dharamsala. There I met Freeman Murray, who would go on to become a friend and collaborator. We worked on various designs using pallet racks, some of which he would go on to build at Burning Man.<br><br>We even had the idea of a fantastical space in the style of Burning Man in Bangalore, called the Singularity. Alas, reality came in the way. |

## EDUCATION

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| 2022 – 2023 | **Bradfield School of Computer Science,** *Computer Science Intensive* ⧉ |
| 2009 – 2015 | **School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi,** *B. Arch* ⧉ |