

BRIAN RUNK

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- Senior technology leader driving innovation and delivery.
- Track record of transforming engineering organizations through deliberate talent development and complex technical transformations.
- Proven ability to modernize legacy systems while maintaining business continuity in rapid-growth environments.
- Expertise in building diverse, high-performing teams, including creating innovative apprenticeship programs and mentoring non-traditional software engineers.

Director of Technology, Research & Development

FINRA

Nov 2023-Present

Reimagined and streamlined R&D program operations to accelerate innovation across the enterprise.

- Lead FINRA's R&D program, overseeing a \$3M annual budget.
- Guide projects exploring emerging technologies ranging from graph database investigations to machine learning research and LLM-related efforts.
- Transformed program operations through standardization, with a resulting increase of 25% in projects and participation.
- Manage a coaching staff of senior technologists and project teams including programmers, data scientists and product specialists, supporting 8-10 research projects at any given time.
- Coordinate executive review of R&D proposals, aligning technical innovation with regulatory strategies.
- Present monthly findings to 250+ attendees from across FINRA, driving the adoption of technology and promoting innovation across the organization.
- Generative AI/LLM-focused projects included the following topics:
 - AI-Assisted Coding & the Software Development Lifecycle
 - Commenting & Documenting to Legacy Code
 - Summarizing Complex Documents
 - Constructing Taxonomies from CMS Content
 - Data Parsing and SQL Generation
 - Generating Graph Databases from Disparate Documents
 - Security Scanning of Internal and Third-party Software
 - Orchestration of Complex Workflows
 - Building Trainable Assistants (Agents)
 - Designing Safe and Ethical Chatbots
 - Establishing a Prompt Engineering Playbook
 - Fine-Tuning Models for FINRA-specific Use Cases

Sr Director of Software Engineering**Sparkfund**

Nov 2019-Mar 2023

Established engineering excellence from the ground up, implementing strategic processes and governance to enable rapid scaling.

- Senior engineering leader, implementing strategic roadmap and directing all technical initiatives.
- Orchestrated the design and development of the full-stack SparkOS platform for clean energy projects.
- Introduced Agile processes, KPIs for aligning teams' work with company-wide goals and regular checkpoints to foster cross-departmental coordination.
- Initiated practices for documentation, testing, CI/CD, site alerting & monitoring, metrics collection and reporting.
- Drove the upgrade of security posture and SDLC enhancements required for SOC1/ SOC2 compliance.
- Performed due diligence related to investor financing and potential M&A activity.

Engineering Manager**Etsy**

May 2016-July 2019

Transformed fragmented engineering teams into a cohesive unit while modernizing critical customer-facing infrastructure.

- Assembled and guided diverse team of 20+ high-performing software engineers through significant organizational changes.
- Directed migration of core marketing infrastructure while maintaining business continuity for a system serving 10M+ customer interactions per hour.
- Integrated 24/7 global customer support platform, enabling thousands of daily interactions, improving the experience for buyers, sellers and staff, while achieving significant cost savings.

Engineering Manager**Constant Contact**

Dec 2012-Dec 2015

Revitalized engineering culture and delivery capabilities while executing complex legacy system modernization.

- Oversaw development and release of main CRM application rewrite, migrating 650,000 customers over 6 months.
- Recruited over twenty engineers, building out a diverse, full-stack team.
- Created apprenticeship program to identify and grow high-potential candidates, often from less-traditional backgrounds in the tech industry.
- Instituted quality improvement effort, eliminating a defect backlog of over 300 issues and cutting the rate of defect introduction in new software by 80%.

Manager of Development**America's Test Kitchen**

Nov 2010-Nov 2012

Led technical evolution from traditional media company to modern digital platform while unifying disparate systems.

- Led creation of an online cooking school, achieving highest retention of any product in company history.
- Managed migration of 2M+ users across multiple sites, featuring a unified database and single sign-on.

Lieutenant, United States Coast Guard**Bachelor of Arts, Language & Literature**

St Mary's College of Maryland