Christopher Armstrong

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***Vice President, Engineering***

*Senior technology leader with a demonstrated track record of building exceptional teams and leading the development and release of multiple breakthrough B2B open-source and SaaS products.*

*Currently targeting growth-stage technology companies seeking an executive who can optimize the engineering organization to efficiently execute the product roadmap and support the company’s mission while emphasizing a healthy and energetic people-focused engineering culture.*

Where I Shine

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| **Defining product vision** to ensure a compelling, profitable fit with market needs—followed by leading the development of powerful, scalable, and cost-effective solutions | **Optimizing teams**  and working tirelessly to foster healthy company culture, improve team chemistry, provide staff with opportunities for professional growth | **Recruiting top talent** and providing the coaching, mentoring, and growth needed to attract/retain key technical contributors; 100% retention rate achieved to date as a leader | **Evangelizing usability** and serving as a customer advocate, ensuring that critical UX concerns and user requirements don’t become casualties in the development process |

Functional Competencies/Expertise

Engineering Team Leadership | Strategic Planning | Budgeting & Resource Allocation | Product Roadmap Development Agile/Scrum Process & SDLC Management | Open Source Software & Community Development | Linux Containers (Docker) Cluster Software and Schedulers (Kubernetes, CoreOS) | Microservice Architecture | Distributed Systems & Software Cloud Infrastructure (AWS, Azure, GCE) | DevOps & DevTools | Scalable Infrastructure & Automation | SaaS/PaaS/IaaS Technologies | Data Centers & Network Architecture | Technology Evangelism & Public Speaking

Employment History & Accomplishments

Deis—*Open-source Platform as a Service (PaaS) organization focused on making apps easier to deploy and manage*

**Vice President, Engineering** *Seattle, WA: Mar 2014 – Apr 2016*

*Initially worked as Core Maintainer and Engineering Team Lead before promotion to full VP role in September 2015, overseeing a 20-member engineering organization and holding accountability for building, maintaining, and supporting the company’s core open-source products including the Deis Kubernetes PaaS and Helm, the Kubernetes package manager*

■ Report to CEO and hold accountability to the Board of Directors for numerous complex technical deliverables

■ Craft departmental culture, set departmental priorities and establish agile/scrum development process to ensure timely releases

■ Play lead role in recruiting new technical talent into the organization, including highly-skilled specialized engineers in Linux system software, DevTools, and distributed systems architecture

■ Interface directly with customer executives to clarify needs and run product demos, in addition to partnering with internal marketing/product teams to define final product vision, requirements, and release schedules

■ Drive the entire software development cycle from start to finish, addressing roadblocks and facilitating creative problem-solving discussions among internal teams members to ensure releases are shipped on-time

■ Provide training to the company’s sales/support teams around the Deis platform, ensuring they’re armed with the latest knowledge regarding the tool and understand its unique positioning within the IT ecosystem

■ Assist as individual engineering contributor, on occasion, helping develop core platform features including complex storage solution utilizing the Ceph distributed storage platform

■ Evangelize the Deis platform at conferences, meetups, and hackathons, in addition to spearheading initiatives with the technology’s vibrant open source community to boost awareness and adoption

Employment History & Accomplishments (cont’d)

SOCRATA—*Innovative Seattle analytics startup, focused on finding new ways to leverage government data for social good*

**Site Reliability Engineer** *Seattle, WA: Feb 2013 – Jan 2014*

*Served as one of two production engineers*

■ Deployed full Socrata stacks to new strategic Windows Azure regions, wrote/maintained Opscode Chef cookbooks, and made significant contributions to the company’s infrastructure reliability, tools, and automation

■ Supported Socrata’s complex infrastructure that included a Rails front-end, Scala/Java backend, PostgreSQL, Zookeeper, Cassandra, Redis, HAProxy, nginx, Couchbase, and Apache Traffic Server

■ Provided operations support to the engineering team, including participation on the on-call rotation, and oversaw migration of the company’s monitoring system from Nagios to Sensu

The Resumator (now JazzHR)—*Recruiting software / applicant tracking system (ATS) developer*

**Director of Engineering** *Pittsburgh, PA: Mar 2012 – Dec 2012*

*Promoted to Director-level role within this recruiting and human capital management (HCM) software developer, focused on providing a robust, highly scalable solution allowing SMB organizations to successfully compete in the “war for talent” and compile revolutionary new data around team hiring, retention, and performance issues*

■ Worked closely with the founder/CEO and senior leadership team of the organization, advising them on complex product strategy, development, management, differentiation, and feasibility issues

■ Grew the engineering team from 2 to 9 members during tenure, onboarding staff and providing hands-on mentoring on a daily basis to maximize team performance and the professional growth of individual contributors

■ Oversaw all feature development, design, and implementation related to the product, setting clear milestones and schedules that allowed everybody to work together, synergistically, to ensure on-time release

■ Represented the engineering team’s interests to company leadership, advocating for cultural changes and the creation of new professional growth opportunities in order to combat turnover, stagnation, and inefficiency

■ Managed budget and led numerous initiatives, upgrades, and architecture changes in order to accommodate the rapid growth of the platform to encompass thousands of active customer accounts

■ Participated in local developer meetups/hackathons in order to evangelize the company’s product and support ongoing recruiting efforts focused on developers, testers, and data scientists

**Lead Software Engineer** *Pittsburgh, PA: Sep 2010 – Mar 2012*

*First full-time employee hired at the organization; served as the only software engineer for a full year and half, responsible for driving all feature development efforts and service reliability improvements for the core product offering*

■ Personally designed and developed numerous major application features, including a complete rewrite of the payment system leveraging Authorize.net, creation of an in-house technical support system, and integration of the software (using Javascript) to enable job aggregation and sharing with Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn

■ Designed and managed a new fault-tolerant systems infrastructure on Amazon Web Services (AWS), including load-balancers, web servers, and MySQL database servers; additionally rewrote major parts of the codebase to improve scalability and reliability

■ Assisted with phone screens, interviews, and staff hiring efforts; gained an acute sense of how to position a company to successfully identify, attract, and retain talented developers in the face of fierce competition

Education & Additional Information

**Research Fellow** | Trinity Fellows Academy, Washington, DC metro area (2016-2017 sabbatical)

*Awarded a scholarship to study applied philosophy, theology, and cultural critique*

*Completed a thesis exploring how the tech industry can better serve people, entitled “Startups, Love Thy Neighbor”*

**B.S. Degree, Computer Science & Economics** | University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

*Heavy focus on system architecture; also devised and conducted behavioral economics research*

**Mentor**—[Fledge](http://fledge.co/) (the “conscious company” accelerator) and [Jolkona](http://www.jolkona.org/) (social entrepreneurship program)

**Outside interests**—board games, flying (private pilot), artificial intelligence, psychology and behavior theory