

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

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SUMMARY

At Prudential Financial, I led the development and execution of technical design and infrastructure strategy as Director of the Event Streaming Platform. With over seven years of experience in real-time event-driven architecture, cloud data engineering, and data streaming solutions, I guided software development teams in delivering scalable, reliable, and high-performing applications. My role encompassed coding, mentoring, and driving Agile practices to ensure the delivery of consumable software solutions that meet strategic business needs.

With a strong foundation in Apache Kafka and DevOps, I have a proven track record of enabling enterprise-wide adoption of event-driven platforms. By operationalizing architectural decisions and implementing modern software patterns, I collaborate with teams to enhance system performance and scalability. Passionate about innovation and data-driven transformation, I am dedicated to delivering impactful solutions that empower organizations to optimize operations and achieve business goals.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Cloud & Data Engineering | Architecture | Data Streaming and Eventing | Financial Transaction Processing | Encryption, Secure, & Sensitive Data Compliance | Big Data Queries & Interpretation | Data Mining & Visualization | DevOps / GitOps | Data Science

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Java / Scala, Python, SQL, Apache Kafka, Kafka Streams, Spark, Kafka Connect, Avro, OpenAPI, OpenSearch, Kubernetes, Docker, Helm, Kong, HashiCorp Vault, Entra, DevOps [Azure, GitHub, GitLab], Terraform, Go, Datadog, Spring Framework, REST, HTTP, AWS [Lambda, EventBridge, Kinesis, SQS, SNS, EC2, EMR, Glue, RDS, RedShift, Lake Formation, Athena, DynamoDB, Bedrock, SageMaker] / [VPC, Route53, IAM, EKS, ECS, S3, EBS, EFS, Secrets Manager, Systems Manager, KMS], mTLS, SASL, RBAC, OIDC, JWT, OAuth, SAML, PCI-DSS / SOC2, RDF, JSON-LD, JavaScript / Typescript, React, Angular, Redux, GraphQL, Gradle, Maven, JUnit, SPARQL, Groovy, XML, Linux, Android, Cypress, Jest, Git, Nginx, JIRA.

EXPERIENCE

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, Newark, NJ

Director and Technical Lead - Event Streaming Platform, 2024 - Jan. 2026

- Responsible for executing technical design and infrastructure / environments strategy, including deployments.
- Interpret and operationalize technical and architectural decisions for a core team of software developers.
- Provide deliverable features as consumable units of work consistent with Agile planning best practices.
- Actively code and provide guidance and leadership across the entire organization.
- Demonstrate deep technical, business domain and platform expertise leading solution design by applying modern software architectural patterns.
- Guide teams on technology strategy related to Event Driven Architecture adoption and migration implementations
- Research and define integration solutions for business partners and external domain use cases

WEX INC., Portland, Maine

Senior Software Development Engineer 4, 2019-2024

- Led an Agile team of four to eight developers.
- Built real-time event streaming cloud-based infrastructure that greatly enhances the performance, stability and extensibility of distributed microservices and mobile payment solutions. This infrastructure processes millions of records per day.
- Wrote data stream and batch processing pipelines in Kafka Streams and Spark to analyze, de-normalize, federate and transform data structures for BI, web and mobile front-end consumers. Developed Spring Boot microservices with REST APIs. Deployed applications and services to Kubernetes with Azure DevOps pipelines and GitHub Actions workflows. Managed availability, scalability, latency, and efficiency of hundreds of deployments in multiple environments.

WEX INC., Portland, Maine (continued)

Senior Software Development Engineer 4, 2019-2024

- Engineered AWS deployments by using Terraform and GitOps, incorporating Kubernetes, various Kafka cloud service providers (AWS MSK, Aiven, Azure Event Hubs), OpenSearch, and the Confluent platform (including Kafka Connect and Avro Schema Registry) in conjunction with Oracle database sources and Qlik Replicate CDC.
- Led engineering of analytics clusters in production for real-time high-volume data stream searching and indexing. Developed monitoring, logging, and instrumentation. Created and maintained metadata to improve data discoverability.
- Demonstrated expertise with secure and sensitive (PCI DSS) data processing including cryptography, tokenization, ACLs and RBAC, mTLS and SASL-SCRAM authentication, and PKI.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, Leipzig, Germany

Data Scientist, 2017-2019

- Designed user interfaces, APIs, and ETL pipeline services. Developed producers and consumers for Apache Kafka.
- Coordinated front-end application development with complex data project requirements for the centralized German Manuscript Portal and integrated discoverable metadata from diverse academic image collections.
- Developed user search interface integration with Google AI endpoints for similarity detection and dynamic text extraction for IIIF sourced images. Aided with five major open-source projects, including TrellisLDP, Apache Jena, JSONLD-Java, Apache RDF Commons, and the IIIF / Project Mirador in cooperation with Stanford University.
- Deployed integrated containerized application services to hybrid cloud environments.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Göttingen, Germany

Software Developer, 2014-2017

- Planned, developed, and implemented application framework for the online presentation and discovery of digital assets from museum and library collections including development of RESTful APIs and RDF data model.
- Resolved clients' problems in a timely manner, providing technical solutions with Fedora Commons Repository, Apache Camel, ActiveMQ, Apache Jena TDB, Djatoka, Apache Solr, Node.js, Wikibase, and eXist-db.
- Presented project research framework for international participants at conferences in Paris, Bonn, Bern, Dusseldorf, and Graz.
- Created robust user interface with XQuery and XSLT that sourced TEI-XML from a NoSQL database.
- Transformed legacy formatted data into interoperable RDF with abstract syntax.

WIKIMEDIA DEUTSCHLAND, Berlin, Germany

Software Developer, 2013-2016

- Supervised areas of project management, development process, design, and project analysis tools for Wikimedia Foundation.
- Enabled progress tracking of issues and organization of tasks for biweekly sprint planning through implementation of effective Agile project management system.
- Analyzed Wikidata project to improve implementation of collaborative software developer tools and methods.
- Wrote a master's thesis that defines a semantic ontology for Wikipedia.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

RIDGEVIEW GLASS INC., Washington, DC, **Project Manager, 2006-2012.** Acted as a logistics manager for the estimating, purchasing and delivery of valuable, fragile and massive international and domestic materials. Trained workers in accordance with the architectural, safety, and material logistics plans. Engineered and coordinated high-risk operations with union glaziers, general contractor superintendents, field foremen and heavy machine operators to provide for safe, effective and architecturally approved material installation. Responsibilities include design and specification review, detail analysis, field survey and measurement, preparation of shop drawings and submittals, shop fabrication, change orders, material purchasing and selection, billing, scheduling, coordination and execution of all phases of installation. Built relationship with clients, stakeholders, and staff to optimize company's revenue. Completed projects on time and within budgetary constraints by delivering exceptional work. Resolved complex architectural design issues.

EDUCATION

BRANDENBURGISCHE TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT, Cottbus, Germany
M.A., Kulturinformatik

ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
Degree in Specialized Technology (AST), Design and Drafting

TRINITY COLLEGE, Hartford, Connecticut
B.A., English

CERTIFICATIONS

*Confluent Certified Developer for Apache Kafka
AWS Certified Data Engineer Associate
AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
Microsoft Certified Professional System Engineer*

LANGUAGES

English, Italian and German