

# CHRIS KIRK SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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As a software engineer with a decade of experience, I've worked across a variety of problem spaces on teams large and small, playing critical roles in high-profile projects. My passion is finding the elegant solution hiding in every complex problem.

## EXPERIENCE

### Lifion by ADP

#### Lead Platform Engineer

2018 – Present | New York City | Full time

- As functional lead of a team of eight engineers, organizes project work, sets architectural direction, and represents the team to stakeholders
- Mentors other engineers and gives technical presentations weekly
- Designs and implements a new GraphQL API, backed by TypeScript microservices running in Kubernetes clusters
- Created a federated GraphQL API gateway with Apollo Federation
- Iterates on a sophisticated product delivery system, working closely with product owners, designers, and end users in an Agile process
- Rethinks domain models and rebuilds legacy systems, with a focus on test-driven development, multi-paradigm programming, and domain-driven design
- Augmented the Lifion platform to support integrations with GraphQL APIs
- Successfully architected and delivered a critical data processing tool under a strict deadline, leading a team of developers to iterate on it

### New York Magazine

#### Senior Full-stack Engineer

2016 – 2018 | New York City | Full time

- Spearheaded the full-stack engineering of The Cut's [homepage redesign](#)
- Single-handedly built a stream-based Node microservice to fill homepages with content based on editors' configurations

- Helped introduce event streaming with Kafka
- Designed a dynamic client-side JS dependency analysis and bundling system, reducing response payloads on article pages up to 18 percent
- Contributed to the in-house content platform and its Vue-based page editor
- Built [The Year In Memes](#), a National Magazine Award finalist
- Wrote a data migration tool to transfer thousands of assets across content verticals
- Contributed to Python, GoLang, Java, and Scala systems
- Oversaw major Elasticsearch and Mongo upgrades

### Slate.com

#### News Apps Engineer

2012 – 2016 | New York City | Full time

- Coded full-stack in JavaScript, Express, React, and MySQL to make interactive visualizations, games, maps, and news apps
- Built apps that told important stories about [gun violence](#), [dark money](#), and [gentrification](#)
- Produced some of Slate's most recognizable work, including the [Game of Thrones Graveyard](#) and [Middle East Friendship Chart](#)
- Developed news games, such as the [Gerrymander Jigsaw Puzzle](#), [Friday News Quiz](#), [Electoral Map Quiz](#), and [Starbucks Quiz](#)
- Built Slate's [Gun Deaths](#) project, featured on NPR, MSNBC, and The Daily Show
- Engineered the [Outrage Calendar](#), a National Magazine Award finalist
- Architected a dynamic quizzing platform for producing [audio](#) and [video](#) quizzes

- Crafted a Node-based desktop email client and chronicled my effort in a [long-form piece](#)
- Managed a junior interactives developer and three interactives interns
- Broke Slate's all-time traffic record with the "[Travoltify Your Name](#)" generator

### City University of New York

#### Adjunct Lecturer

2015 – 2016 | New York City | Part time

Taught data journalism, HTML, JavaScript, and R to graduate students with my own coursework

### Freelance Web Development

2007 – 2014 | Part time

Built websites and apps for large and small businesses, including Sony Music

### Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

#### News Apps Intern

Fall 2011 | Pittsburgh | Full time

Engineered news apps, including an [interactive timeline](#) of the Penn State scandal

### Yahoo!

#### New Media Intern

Summer 2010, Summer 2011 | Sunnyvale, CA | Full time

Evaluated geoparsing software crucial to product strategy

### Evanston Now

#### News Reporting Intern

Summer 2010 | Evanston, IL | Full time

Reported on city council and crime, producing 63 stories, including 11 video stories

## EDUCATION



Northwestern University  
Graduated March 2012  
*Magna Cum Laude*

- ☒ Bachelor of Science in Journalism
- ☒ Double major in Political Science
- ☒ Completed coursework on interactive journalism and computer programming
- ☒ Served three years on the *Daily Northwestern* in various editorial, creative, and managerial roles

## SKILLS

JavaScript	RxJS	Webpack
TypeScript	Streams	Browserify
Node	Jest/Mocha	Git
GraphQL	Express	Grunt/Gulp
Apollo	Kinesis	Handlebars
React	Vue	MySQL
Redux	Docker	MongoDB
React Native	Knex	SASS
Kubernetes	jQuery	AWS
Terraform	D3	Python
Elasticsearch	TypeORM	Golang
Datadog	Babel	R

## RECOGNITION



Finalist, Multimedia Feature, National Magazine Awards 2017



Best Single-Topic News or Feature, Education Writers Association, 2016



Finalist, Multimedia Feature, National Magazine Awards 2015



1st Place, Multimedia Feature, Associated Collegiate Press 2011



1st Place, Photo Essay in a Daily Newspaper, Ill. College Press Assoc. 2010