

Collin Wilkins

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Summary

Engineering leader with 5+ years building cloud-native distributed systems (AWS, Azure, GCP) and a prior career in technical sales and business development. I lead teams that ship reliable, scalable platforms—and I translate technical complexity into business outcomes. Track record of driving \$5M+ in operational savings, onboarding enterprise clients, and modernizing legacy systems. Currently building AI-powered automation workflows and exploring agentic system design.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, Kotlin, JavaScript

AI & Automation: GPT/Claude APIs, DOE Framework, RAG patterns, Prompt Engineering, GitHub Actions

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS (Lambda, SQS, SNS), Azure, GCP (Pub/Sub, Firestore), Kubernetes, Terraform

Data & Messaging: Kafka, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, Event-Driven Architecture

Security & Compliance: Zero Trust, OAuth, IAM, TLS, SOC 2, HIPAA, PCI DSS

Observability: Grafana, Splunk, Prometheus, CloudTrail

Professional Experience

Morningstar, Inc. — Detroit, MI

Lead Engineer | Apr 2024 – Present

- Lead architecture and delivery of secure, cloud-native services for regulated financial clients; enabled onboarding of 23+ enterprise recordkeepers with Zero Trust access models.
- Drove modernization of compliance engine using AWS SQS, Lambda, and distributed queues—improved throughput and reduced latency by 35%.
- Built event-driven workflows and monitoring solutions (CloudTrail, Splunk) to achieve 99.99% uptime targets for client-facing services.
- Partner with product and business stakeholders to translate requirements into scalable technical designs; author technical diagrams and operational playbooks.
- Mentor engineers on distributed systems patterns, code quality, and incident response.

Ford Motor Company — Dearborn, MI

Full Stack Software Engineer — Connected Vehicle | Feb 2021 – Apr 2024

- Built and maintained IoT microservices on Azure and GCP supporting real-time telemetry for millions of vehicles and over-the-air updates.
- Implemented Kafka feed listeners ingesting 600k+ vehicle events daily with proper handling of customer location data and privacy requirements.

- Designed theft anticipation and recovery features for the 2024 Ford F-150 using cloud-integrated telemetry and real-time messaging frameworks.
- Led re-architecture of remote dealership inventory auditing application—handles vehicle-to-cloud events for 450k+ vehicles, saving \$5M annually.
- Migrated identity systems to Microsoft ADFS & SSO, aligning with Zero Trust security principles.

Market Area Sales Manager (Pricing & Strategy) | Jul 2019 – Jan 2021

- Designed digital pricing tools delivering \$2.2M in annual savings; collaborated with leadership to integrate analytics into field operations.
- Developed technology roadmaps and pricing models for Ford's North American market in partnership with executive leadership.

Business Development Manager | Mar 2017 – Jun 2019

- Served as technical sales advisor for digital onboarding and financial planning tools across 13 dealer accounts (\$75M AUM).
- Partnered with clients to deploy financial planning platforms, capturing \$10M through tailored technical sales engagements.

Leadership Development Program / Team Lead | Jun 2013 – Feb 2017

- Completed 3-year rotational Leadership Development Program across multiple business functions.
- Led team operations for one year while completing MBA, building foundation in people management and cross-functional collaboration.

AUTOMATION & AI PROJECTS

- Built automated client onboarding workflow: triggers email sequences and generates ClickUp tasks on new client signup using Python deployed on Modal and webhooks.
- Created PDF generation pipeline from Markdown files with templating and GitHub Actions for CI/CD automation.
- Developing agentic workflows with LangChain and GPT APIs for document processing and task orchestration.

Education & Certifications

MBA, Lipscomb University — Nashville, TN (2016)

BS, Business Administration (Finance & Accounting), University of Colorado Boulder (2013)

Certifications: AWS Cloud Practitioner (2025) | Microsoft Azure Fundamentals AZ-900 (2024) | Google Kubernetes Engine (2024) | Google Cybersecurity Foundations (2024)