

# DAVID TERRANOVA

Engineering Leader | Scaling Teams & Distributed Systems |  
Product-Led Growth



Engineering leader with 12+ years building and scaling distributed systems, 8+ years managing high-performing teams of up to 25 engineers, and a track record delivering products serving 40M+ MAU. My priorities are, in order: **People, Culture, Strategy, and Delivery**. I create autonomy and alignment within teams to increase efficiency and ownership, combining hands-on technical expertise with servant leadership.

*Moto: Sometimes failing and always learning.*

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Engineering Manager

People, Culture, Strategy and delivery

Lokalise | 2024 - Present

- Led AI-powered Translation platform team, delivering significant improvement in translation quality while reducing costs
- Managed team of 6 engineers across 3 timezones, achieving 80+% on-time delivery rate
- Trust, transparency, open feedback, bottom up, ownership, data driven, iterative, continuous improvement
- Build and share the vision people can appropriate to reflect in the product
- De-risking (ICE), visibility and dependency management, operational excellence

### Senior Engineering Manager

Golang, AWS, Postgres, CQRS

Smallpdf | 2021 - 2024

In charge of the the Document legality domain. Extending and managing the domain with a second team. Driving the technical strategy and architecture.

- Promote a culture of transparency, initiatives, autonomy, ownership and accountability
- OKR definition, performance reviews, process improvements
- Share system, software architectures designs and documentations practices to increase engineering maturity
- Share experiences & learnings with other EMs to improve the engineering organization

### Engineering Manager

Golang, AWS, Postgres, CQRS

Smallpdf | 2020 - 2021

Hands-on engineering manager, hired and setup a cross functional team. Architected and delivered CQRS & Event Sourcing digital signature platform serving 40M+ MAU, reducing signature processing time and improving system reliability uptime.

- Hands-on technical leadership, architectural RFC proposal and reviews
- Estimations, planning, prioritization, delivery, monitoring, maintenance, support
- Team health, professional and personal development, coaching, mentoring

### Senior Software Engineer - Backend

Golang, AWS, OpenID Connect

Smallpdf | 2020

Coordinating integrating and extending Keycloak to support our 40M+ monthly unique active users.

## EDUCATION

### MSc in Computer Science - Software Design

EPSI Montpellier (FR)  
2009 - 2012

### BSc Computer Science - Management

IUT Montpellier (FR)  
2007 - 2009

## SKILLS

### Professional

Technical leadership

Distributed team management

Professional and personal development

Technical strategy

Agile methodologies (scrum/kanban)

Stakeholder management

Budget, resources and estimation planning

Incident management & on-call

### Technical

Event driven architecture, distributed systems

- Designing and implementing custom specifications to support product requirements
- Writing extensions and adapters to support existing user management system
- Writing custom authorizers to support seamless migration from legacy authentication system to the new one
- Writing generic middleware to provide authorization to existing backend services

**Chief Technology Officer**

Golang, Streaming, k8s

TellMePlus | 2017 - 2019

Drive the roadmap, technical strategy and key architecture of Predictive Objects to transform our proof of concept into product. A cloud agnostic platform, available on premise, able to ingest realtime sensors data, extract and compute new features, build datasets and use supervised machine learning to train Predictive Objects models to anticipate failures on industrial plants.

**Engineering Manager - DevOps**

Golang, Python, Terraform

TellMePlus | 2015 - 2017

Manage transversal team supporting Predictive Objects in multi cloud environments. Promoted development good practices such as testing, continuous deployment, communication, security guidelines and tooling to the engineering teams.

**CTO / Co-Founder**

Ruby on rails, Proxmox, Debian, Ansible

Arksens cyber security | 2014 - 2015

Arksens Cyber Security is a digital security vendor for small & medium sized companies. It provides & customizes a set of open source tools and services to help companies autonomously reducing cyber threats by themselves at a controlled cost.

**Software Engineer - Backend**

Java, MongoDB

TellMePlus | 2013 - 2014

Shopping Intelligence, Recommendation over Big-Data using NoSQL & CHOCO library to produce fine grained recommendations.

**Research Engineer**

Java, Choco

LIRMM - Montpellier Laboratory of Computer Science, Robotics, and Microelectronics | 2013

Constraint Programming. Demonstrate constraint programming capabilities on concrete business cases.

**Software Engineer**

Objective-C, SQLite

Sanofi | 2011 - 2013

Created a sqlite based framework for mobile applications designed to compound with security guidelines of clinical studies.

**PROJECTS****Artistic Pictures**

Photography, Software Development

Capturing the perfect moment, artistic vision in mind

**Construction Coordinator / builder**

Construction

Design, creation, and construction of my personal house

**Le Sonambule, volunteering**

Arts - Music

Contributing to make the organisation to offer concerts at a fair price

**RECOMMENDATIONS****Mike Pilawski**

Mike was David's mentor

Go/Python/Ruby/Java/Bash

AWS/Google cloud

OAuth2/OpenID

Connect

Docker/ECS/k8s

Web services/SOA

**LANGUAGES**

French (Native)

English (Fluent)

**INTERESTS**

Motorbike racing

Kitesurfing

Photography

Travelling

David is a great technology leader and an engineering manager. He is a strong architect capable of thinking through complex architectural choices and arriving at simple and reliable solutions. He can take large, complex projects, identify key risks and direct the team through milestones to completion. He is also a great manager who deeply cares for his team and invests time to help his team members grow.

It was a real privilege working with David and I hope I will have the opportunity to do it again.

**Jakub Skoczeń**

Jakub reported directly to  
David

David is an exceptional hands-on manager with extensive technical knowledge and a pragmatic approach to problem-solving. He has a talent for building efficient and successful teams full of trust, and his collaborative leadership style inspires great results. I highly recommend him as a skilled and knowledgeable leader.

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Designed with ❤ by [Xiaoying Riley](#) for developers

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