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Dear Stream Hiring Team,

I found out about Stream from my acquaintance (and recent Stream hire), Varsh Bhat. It looks like you folks are doing some interesting work, and I'd be well-equipped to add my experience to your team, either as a Staff Software Engineer or Senior Software Engineer. I'll explain this flexibility below.

While it may seem peculiar for someone with 20 years of experience to apply for the role of Senior Software Engineer, I have a unique case. After 15 years living in the US, UK, and India — as a Tech Lead and business owner — I've moved back to Canada and would like to work for a Canadian office, doing more direct delivery. Since Covid, I've spent a significant amount of time volunteering, building open source for non-profits — from service APIs to Flutter frontends. I would like to find a position as an individual contributor where I can maintain and grow back into my programming skill in a day job.

From 2012 to 2018, I started and built Nilenso Software, India's first worker-owned technology company. I grew it to ₹15 Crore ARR, left to travel for two years, then from 2020 to 2024, worked on XTDB and Endatabas — two immutable, time-traveling database products. While building Nilenso, I mentored our small team in Ruby and Clojure. Our team built and maintained large data-oriented backend and ML systems for companies like Staples and Gojek. We built a local-first syncing engine for the life-saving app at Simple.org. As Nilenso's founder, I'm proud of the part I played in building the teams that built those systems. I enjoy building teams as much as I enjoy building tools.

Managing software teams at Nilenso is relevant to Stream. We often picked up large distributed computing projects in Go. The systems we built often ran on AWS, almost always included message queues / event-sourcing, and often required full-text search. My experience building Endatabas also applies: I was directly involved in our SDK and API surface area, our SQL dialect, and designing the architecture of Endatabas as an infinitely scale-out database with separated storage and compute.

Prior to starting Nilenso and Endatabas, I worked at ThoughtWorks and DRW Trading from 2005 to 2011. I was a tech lead for teams as large as 30 and as small as 2, teaching folks design, architecture, and continuous integration (in the original sense). I left high finance in 2012 and moved to India. It's a long story I'm happy to share.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Steven Deobald