

# Steven Deobald

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Hello Honeycomb team,

I have been in the software industry for 20+ years where I've been a developer, tech lead, engineering/project manager, product owner, and business owner. I spent most of the past 4+ years working on two database startups: XTDB and Endatabas. I helped define the brand, onboarding experience, UX, SQL dialect(s), and architectural details of these two products. While I'm very happy with the atomic result of our work on Endatabas, building a database in 2024 is more than a bit of a moonshot. I'm really looking forward to working on a product with real customers I can just keep making happier and happier — rather than trying to convince the world of the utility of immutable records and time-traveling queries.

My work history is... peculiar. As a developer, I worked at ThoughtWorks and DRW Trading. Feeling the sort of bleak pointlessness of working in high finance, I moved to India in 2011. It wasn't my intention to live there for nearly a decade, but I ended up founding and running Nilenso Software, India's first employee-owned tech company. I hired and mentored my replacement (Deepa Venkatraman) and handed over the reins in 2018. Nilenso is still a successful business to this day under her leadership. Our goals for Nilenso were simple: solve difficult technical challenges, preferably for businesses and organizations that really benefit humanity. We succeeded in both, moving away from industries like ad-tech in our first year toward companies like Gojek and non-profits like Simple.org, working in fields and environments as varied as ML, distributed computing, Clojure, Haskell, Elixir, and Go. Observability was always a key component of services we built.

I now live in Halifax (Canada) and I'm on the hunt for a company or organization that creates something larger than I think I could have created myself. I'm interviewing at the GNOME Foundation for their Executive Director position at the moment, which excites me a lot. I love the idea of helping to build a product that has existed longer than Google. Relatedly, I see Honeycomb has Austin Parker in the *Director of Open Source* role — I would love to know more about what that entails! But I'm also curious about Honeycomb in general and the longer-term roles you hope to create. Given the years I've spent thinking about and building data-oriented products, I would love to have a conversation with you folks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,



Steven Deobald