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Dear Stripe GTM Systems Hiring Team,

I recently interviewed with Joe's *Experimental Projects* team at Stripe. Although this was a bit of a hail-mary (it was a Staff Engg role and I haven't programmed professionally for the better part of a decade, due to an eye injury) and I wasn't selected, I absolutely *loved* the Stripe hiring process. I also spoke to an ex-colleague who is now an EM with Stripe infrastructure, to get a sense of what it's like in a Stripe EM position. When I saw that there was an EM position open in Canada, I felt I had to apply.

I have been in technology leadership roles for over 10 years. Starting with my time at ThoughtWorks and DRW Trading, I led and mentored teams of dozens of developers. When I left DRW, I moved to India and started Nilenso Software, an employee-owned software consultancy with a mission to work with clients building critical infrastructure products, whether for-profit like GoJek or non-profit like Simple.org. I was involved in hiring everyone who worked at Nilenso when I left in 2018, including my replacement. Even in my leadership role, I spent a great deal of time guiding improvements in our engineering tooling and processes. I am very comfortable staffing, leading, and mentoring teams so that they grow toward self-sufficiency. Nilenso's continued existence is evidence that I have done this, even at the scale of an entire company.

I've spent the better part of the past five years working on two database startups: XTDB and Endatabas. This work was largely product vision, priorities, EM, and architecture overview. While I really enjoyed working on both of these products, they were both early and ambitious. I would like to help grow a product which has traction already. I have been a Stripe customer for almost as long as Stripe has existed; I would love to be a part of building such a crucial product.

I look forward to hearing from you about this or future roles.

All the best,

Steven Deobald