
Senior Solutions Architect

Success engineering solutions for digital products in startups and enterprises

Accomplished hands-on architect and team lead and for both frontend and backend systems. Full-stack engineer capable of architecting both distributed, multi-tenant platforms and complex, component-based user interfaces. Specialist in developing performant, responsive, browser-based frontend applications. Practitioner of Domain Driven Design, Event Driven Programming, Event Sourcing, and CQRS. Strong convictions for Agile methodologies, DevOps, QA, and processes and standards. Experienced remote employee and team lead with demonstrated senior leadership abilities.

Professional Experience

Gainbridge Life (Group1001)

New York City, New York

Tech Lead, Digital Platform (08/2017 to 01/2020)

Successfully executed the organization's strategic and technical vision within an internally funded FinTech startup bringing annuities direct-to-consumer. Launched a distributed digital retail annuity sales and administration platform, grew a fully-remote team from 5 to 20 members within two years, and earned \$1M in weekly sales in under 12 months.

Core Technologies: JavaScript (React), Node.js, Kotlin, Jenkins, Kafka, AxonIQ, Kubernetes, Docker, Helm

Responsibilities:

- **Technical thought leadership** at all levels of the organization and tech stack from design to delivery.
- **Vendor management** for consultancies and SaaS providers; contract and SLA negotiation.
- **Talent acquisition and mentoring** for the engineering and product teams; performed regular performance reviews and top-grading.
- **Cross-functional facilitation** ensuring requirements and acceptance criteria from SME's were communicated and defined clearly and accurately and customer service needs were being met.
- **Define standards and best practices** for the engineering team, and repeatable working models for the entire company, including customer service.
- **Code authorship** in mission-critical scenarios or to boost sprint velocity.

Key Achievements:

- **Introduced domain-driven-design (DDD) methods** accelerating and improving cross-functional communication, estimation accuracy, and product quality **resulting in a 25-30% increase in velocity**.
- **Implemented monitoring and telemetry** to capture, measure, and report KPI progress and to generate baselines for customer and system service level agreements.
- **Lowered technical debt by 30%** by transitioning the project from an external consultancy to an internal team, leading re-architecture, orchestrating parallel deployments and migrating and sunseting the problematic services.
- **Devised career paths offering employees a sense of upward direction**, clarified measures of success in current roles, and supplied training and opportunities to achieve career goals and milestones.
- **Recruited, supervised, and retained a distributed staff of ten engineers** accounting for 50% of personnel.
- **Cultivated company culture** by advocating for transparency, providing opportunities for individual growth, fostering mutual respect, and organizing team-building events.

Synacor, Inc. (SYNC)

Buffalo, New York

Principal Engineer (03/2014 to 08/2017)

Lead engineer for front end applications backed by service-oriented architecture (SOA) for cloud-based software products providing video delivery, identity management (IDM), content and advertising services. Contributed to multiple projects, IDM, TV Everywhere (live, DRM, and OTT media streaming), and Portal platforms authoring primarily in Java and JavaScript.

Core Technologies: JavaScript (Backbone, Preact), Node.js, Java, Scala (Play framework), HTML5 DRM API, Jenkins

Responsibilities:

- **Continuous Integration:** Generated a robust continuous integration pipeline by automating the building, testing, and deployment of applications for quicker software delivery.
- **Technical Lead and SME:** Consulted across engineering and operational teams when technical expertise, rapid prototyping, or domain knowledge was needed.
- **Team Management:** Served as the interim Engineering Manager for nine months in absence of the role being filled. Common activities included aligning activities with the company's vision, prioritizing and delegating tasks, and inspiring and evaluating the remote engineering team.

Key Achievements:

- Co-authored a user interface (UI) component library **facilitating a 10% increase in productive velocity** across all user interface teams.
- Authored scripts and new hire documentation for new employees and contractors **reducing onboarding time to a first meaningful commit from 1 week to 2 days**.
- **Boosted team capacity through mentoring** less-experienced engineers to master key skills and concepts needed to effectively work within the codebase.
- **Lifted code quality** by establishing coding standards and strictly enforcing them during code reviews.

Bitwise Web Services, LLC

NYC, Philadelphia

Owner (02/2009 to 03/2014)

Leveraging nine years of hands-on leadership, founded a consulting company to supply clients with additional engineering capacity, consulting services, and custom software development. Trained clients' departments in the use of new technology, coding best practices, and modern software delivery workflows.

Core Technologies: JavaScript (Ember.js), Node.js, PHP (Laravel, Symfony), MySQL, Sphinx, Linux, Bash, Ansible

Responsibilities:

- **Strategic & Operational Leadership:** Oversaw long-range strategic planning, technical architecture, application programming, and the supervision of offshore mobile developers.
- **Client Acquisition:** Submitted requests for proposals to successfully procure a stable pipeline of small business brand development, SEO, software development, and market positioning contracts.
- **Business Operations:** Composed and implemented processes and policies encompassing sales, marketing, client relations, project management, engineering, and accounting.

Key Achievements:

- **Achieved year-over-year growth between 5% and 7%** with customized software offerings and consulting services in the public and private sectors, spanning music, education, health, and records archival.
- **Acted as technical partner and co-founder** for several startups providing strategic technology leadership as well as full-stack development services.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ultrastar / LiveNation

New York City, New York

Director, Product Engineering (05/2000 to 02/2009)

Promoted through several roles from Webmaster to Director in a startup founded by popular music legend David Bowie. The organization offered internet services, exclusive members-only experiences, live venue webcasts, and a subscription-based advanced-ticketing platform for live performances by multiple artists. Acted as senior architect and delivery lead for all customer-facing products.

Core Technologies: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, PHP (LAMP stack), MySQL, Bash, Subversion

Responsibilities:

- **Platform and API Design:** Principal architect for all customer-facing systems, databases and API's.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Collaborated with artists and clients on webpage design including eliciting requirements, obtaining feedback, and delivering mockups and finalized content. Key clients included The Rolling Stones, The Who, Madonna, Maria Carey, The Police, AC/DC, and David Bowie.
- **Process & Workflows Origination:** Conceptualized and implemented processes, workflows, and document libraries to organize work activities, set expectations with client managers, and support engineers with a high level of reusability and extensibility between projects.
- **Team Leadership & Development:** Coached five designers and developers in prototyping best practices, pitching new features to prospective clients, and the successful delivery of finalized pages.

Key Achievements:

- **Reduced agency and contractor costs** by taking full ownership of all development and release processes, managing all content updates, and conducting live moderated chat events.
- **Lowered average delivery time** by adopting object-oriented methodologies and model-view-controller (MVC) architecture within the codebase, creating a library of extensible UI components, and deployment scripts.

Education & Credentials

Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts in Advertising & Communications, Dean's List

Minors: Business Management, Italian

Work-Study: Webmaster for College of Communications

Technical Proficiency

Methodologies:	XP/Agile/Scrum, Kanban, Waterfall, Pair Programming, Domain-Driven Design
Languages:	TypeScript/JavaScript (ES2015+/Node), HTML5, CSS3, SCSS, PHP, Java, Bash
Frameworks:	Next.js, React, Redux, Apollo, GraphQL, Ember, Laravel, Spring
QA/Automation:	Jest, Cypress, Mabl, Mocha, Karma, Jasmine, Selenium
Tools:	Git, Webpack, Parcel, Maven, Gradle, Prometheus, Grafana, Kiali
DB/Messaging:	NoSQL, MySQL, Postgres, Kafka, Socket.io, Redis, Jabber/XMPP
Ops/Infra:	AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, Istio, JenkinsX, Bamboo, TeamCity, Ansible, HashiCorp Tools
Productivity:	Adobe CS, Sketch, Miro, Atlassian, Slack, Zoom, MS Office/G Suite