

Erik Van Winkle

OPERATIONS · TECHNOLOGY

Atlanta, Georgia U.S.A.

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Summary

Accomplished professional with a robust background at the intersection of technology and operations. Proven experience as a Product Manager at Ernst and Young, specializing in the Product Transformations of IT Departments. Advanced to Director of Operations at a dynamic tech startup, driving operational excellence. Passionate about problem-solving, leveraging emerging technologies, and enhancing operational efficiency. Seeking a role that utilizes both analytical and interpersonal skills to drive innovation.

Work Experience

DeSci Labs

2022 - Present

OPERATIONS

Online

- Was first employee hired to a newly formed startup, worked to establish the hiring processes and played a pivotal role in selecting, onboarding and training the eventual 20-person team
- Served as the initial point of contact for a seed-round raise of \$4M at a \$20M valuation. Subsequently found and secured inclusion on grant proposals totaling upwards of €20M+ over the course of 3 years
- Was invited to speak at 25+ conferences over a 2.5 year time span as a representative of the company

MARKET RESEARCH

Online

- Investigated the feasibility of new and emerging data management direction for the product by spending 3 months in the Netherlands learning from leaders in the academic infrastructure space and developing relationships with potential users
- Reviewed the feasibility of potential partnerships with a decentralized web infrastructure provider by building a network of 100+ people, then using that network to gather information and evaluate the long-term potential alignment and market prospects

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Online

- Created 2,000+ person product support community. Established management processes, then hired and trained community managers to function in event management and product support roles
- Founded three separate 1,000+ person conferences. Ran all operations on first conference. For second and third conferences, managed finances and strategic direction while forming teams and committees of volunteers for operations
- Spun up an active 50+ person community of high profile academics championing DeSci Labs technologies in their niche fields, resulting in 10+ conference proposals and 6 grant opportunities

Ernst and Young

2019 - 2022

IT TRANSFORMATION AND PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Boise, Idaho U.S.A.

- Helped a large company shift their IT department to product development. Started by performing an analysis of IT Capabilities within the department as information gathering for a transformation roll-out
- Acted as a "showcase" product owner during the roll-out, building an internal tool while working closely with executives and division leaders to explain the role of a product owner. Led and directed a team of designers, developers, and product analysts in crafting internal tooling based on stakeholder requirements

CYBERSECURITY AUDIT CONSULTANT

Silver Springs, Maryland U.S.A.

- Created a full inventory of cybersecurity tooling and application in the company, then coordinated with cyber SMEs to provide clients with a series of 10 recommendations leading to a reduction of \$2M and enhanced security capabilities overall

DIVESTITURE AND CLOUD MIGRATION EXECUTION

Newark, New Jersey U.S.A.

- Fourth person onboarded to the divestiture of \$8B in assets from a Fortune 50 Pharmaceutical company. Designed, implemented, and maintained all reporting and analysis pipelines for program management to CIO and IT upper management of divestiture execution
- Assisted in the sale of \$75M in additional, follow-on business across spin-co and steer-co including ServiceNow implementation, a migration to cloud, and an IT Finance analysis and revamp

Other

MISCELLANEOUS ROLES

- ConstitutionDAO: Acted as part of a 30 person team which raised \$50M in 7 days from 30,000 individual contributors to buy a copy of the US Constitution at auction. Personally served as the Liaison to Sothebys Auction House during the process
- QA Engineer: Worked 2 years for Robert Bosch in Charleston, South Carolina and Stuttgart, Germany on various quality assurance projects
- Startup Founder: Spent 1 year going through Georgia Tech incubator programs focused on starting a company. Subsequently launched a bicycling safety startup. Was responsible for user research, product design, marketing, and more

Skills and Interests

COMPUTER AND TECH SKILLS

- Business Related Skills and Associated Softwares: Microsoft Office Suite (High Proficiency in PowerPoint for Storytelling), Asana/Jira and other Product/Project Management Tooling, PowerBI and related Business Intelligence Tooling, Python/R/SQL/Excel for Data Analytics, Miro, Zapier, Loom, GPT
- Homelab Networking Projects: Proxmox/Poweredge for Hardware, Brocade/OPNSense for Networking/Firewall, TrueNAS/Synology/Plex for Personal Cloud Storage, Apache/Nginx/React/Node/Vercel for Personal Website, Grafana/Loki/Promtail for Syslog Server, OpenVPN, Docker,
- Emerging Technologies of Interest: Artificial Intelligence/Semantic Web, Blockchain/Decentralized Web, Internet of Things

BUSINESS SKILLS

- Communication and Storytelling, Product/Project/Program Management, Data Analytics/Visualization, Public Speaking, Time Management, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Strategic Planning, Leadership and Team Building, Client Relationship Management, Negotiation and Persuasion, Market Research and Analysis

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Spending time with family, Learning, Cooking, Reading, Hiking, Swimming, Yoga, Tinkering, Traveling

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology

B.S. IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Atlanta, Georgia U.S.A.

- Recieved James G. Wohlford Excellence in Co-operative Education Scholarship and Sigma Phi Epsilon Balanced Man Scholarship