

# Joan Gamell, Engineering Manager

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Technologist bred and fascinated by the web. Broad experience in **full-stack development**, made the jump to **management** but coding is still my passion. Thrive in the **mix of technical and leadership roles**, looking at management from the problem-solving perspective and striving to improve every day. Kept my tech skills up to date by "*scratching my own itch*" with some open-source projects.

## Professional Experience

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### Engineering Manager at Expedia in San Francisco, Jul 2015 - present

*Expedia is one of the world's largest Online Travel Agent (OTA)*

Having hands-on technical skills in this managerial position helped me to scale and lead an energetic team of engineers who owned the whole stack and deployed to production daily following `Continuous Deployment` practices.

- Built and led a successful team of engineers who owned the complete Product & Tech Stack and **reliably delivered according to Product's expectations**.
- Lead the engineering team to generate a projected **\$70M+ of Gross Profit** in 2016.
- **Scaled the team** several times - from 4 to 16 members - in 2 years while minimizing impact on sprint velocity and deliverables.
- Overcame the **challenges of leading a distributed team across 4 locations in 2 different timezones** and adjusted the team's processes for optimal performance in this remote configuration.
- **Achieved zero outstanding bugs** several months by ensuring quality is built-in and automated in the code and pipeline and by continuously performing preventive maintenance.
- **Mentored and coached team members**, empowering them to take decisions and to continuously improve themselves through data and feedback, and worked through performance issues with team members when needed.
- Laid out the **technical vision for the product**, liaised and collaborated with other teams to achieve our goals.
- Helped deliver the official **Expedia Alexa Skill** (<https://www.expedia.com/alexa>) under a tight deadline as a side project. The project was developed using `node`, `AWS lambda` and `Dynamo DB`.
- Developed and **open-sourced a library to functionally test Alexa Skills** (<https://github.com/ExpediaDotCom/alexa-conversation>).
- **Wrote code**, paired coded, performed code reviews and helped debug issues. Fluent in: `JavaScript`, `HTML`, `CSS` and `Java`.

### Tech Lead at Expedia in San Francisco, Oct 2014 - Jul 2015

First role with **people manager responsibilities** in a small team of engineers where we owned the whole tech stack for the product.

- Led the effort to **scale the system to serve x5 more requests with the same team**.
- Performed as **main project point person** and liaison with other teams and Product stakeholders.
- Assumed the de-facto role of a **Technical Project Manager** / Delivery Manager and perfected the team's *semi-kanban* process.
- **Hired**, on-boarded and mentored new team members.
- Headed **front-end development** in the team, using mainly `vanilla JS`, `LESS/CSS`, `HTML` and `node`.
- **Estimated** new feature effort levels and worked with Product on Backlog planning/grooming.

### Front-end Engineer at Expedia in Singapore, Oct 2012 - Oct 2014

Main front-end developer of a fully-responsive, high-traffic, highly-available e-commerce website: **AirAsiaGo** (<https://www.airasiago.com>). Used `Kanban` & `Continuous Deployment` methodologies and followed `Clean Code` practices.

- **Developed, tested and shipped** cross-browser, responsive, retina-ready features and modules built with `HTML5`, `JavaScript - jQuery`, `Backbone`, `AngularJS` etc- `CSS3 (LESS)`, `SVG`, `sprites`, etc. on top of a `Spring (Java)` back-end.
- **Led the team's front-end vision and development**. Evangelize best practices by mentoring team mates.
- Interacted with UI Design team, providing constant feedback on the difficulty/feasibility of the planned features.
- **Optimized** page load-time and SEO ranking through minification, caching, selective loading, changes in front-end architecture, usage of subdomain-per-asset CDNs, sprite and image compression, etc.
- Identified, debugged and fixed **live-site issues** within hours (`Splunk`, `Nagios`, `AWS monitoring`, `Google Analytics`, etc.).

## Sr. Web Developer & Tech Lead at Optimum Solutions (Standard Chartered Bank) in Singapore, Jan - Oct 2012

*Optimum Solutions is a Singaporean mid-size IT consultant company. SCB is a global bank with branches in 70 countries over 80,000 employees*

Worked on the RMWB (Relation Manager WorkBench) project for Standard Chartered Bank. Our responsibility was to develop and ship the front-end of the application the corporate customers would use.

- **Integrated an already existing web application** from a third-party vendor following given designs and using `HTML`, `CSS`, `JavaScript` and `JSPs` into the RMWB portal which also grouped information from CreditMate and MicroStrategy Systems in a web-based interface. Developed web services to expose data from the backend with `Spring` (Java).
- **Conducted technical interviews** for Web Developer and Web Designer roles.
- **Drove implementation**, Quality Control, bug tracking and feature planning for the project.
- Undertook the role of **point of contact** between the Business and tech team.

## Analyst at BBVA in Madrid, Sep 2010 - Dec 2011

*BBVA is the second-largest Spanish bank with more than 100,00 employees around the world*

Worked on the *Mentor* project at Wholesale Banking & Asset Management, Global Risk Unit. Mentor was a web-based project to integrate, unify, organize and report all the unit's risk data from diverse systems with different data outputs.

- Helped **design and code the project's foundations** from scratch (Maven config files, project file structure, initial setup).
- **Developed a complex parser** for a legacy system output (Algorithmics) making exhaustive use of Regular Expressions to translate the output to comprehensive, coherent JPA models.
- **Designed and implemented a web-based user-facing interface** with `JSP`, `HTML` and `JavaScript` (`jQuery`, `Ajax`, `async` plugin loading).
- Spearheaded **front-end development** and ensured best practices were followed.
- Drove meetings with Business stakeholders to gather requirements and design new features.

## Developer at Safelayer Secure Communications in Barcelona, Feb 2009 - Sep 2010

*Safelayer is an IT security company with ~50 workers*

**Invented, designed and implemented** a proof of concept of *gOTP*, a novel two-factor authentication system which combined the robustness of One Time Passwords and the easily-remembered Graphical Passwords. The project was initially developed as a joint R&D Final Degree Project at UPC (see below) and Safelayer company, to become a product of the latter.

- Developed iPhone application as the client. Developed with `Objective-C`, `Cocoa Touch Framework`, `Xcode`.
- Built `Grails` (Groovy on Rails) application as the server. Used `Groovy`, `Java`, `ant`, `Maven`, `SVN`, `MySQL`, `ExtJS` (Sencha), `Web Services`.

## Education

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### Informatics Engineering, 2004-2009 at Barcelona School of Informatics (FIB), Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), Barcelona (Spain)

Degree + MSc. Graduated with **Honors** in the final Degree project "**A Secure Authentication System via OTP and Graphical Password** (<http://goo.gl/tkahus>)"

### Other courses

- **Startup Engineering**, 2013 at Coursera (Stanford University)
- **Spring Training**, 2011 at SpringSource University
- **iPhone Application Programming**, 2009 at iTunesU (Stanford University)

## Additional Information

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- **Languages**: Native **Spanish** and **Catalan** speaker. Full Professional Proficiency in **English**.
- My two **passions** are:
  - **Photography**: Have won prizes, had pictures featured in several editorials (e.g. *500px editors choice*) and contributed thousands of dollars to charity by auctioning my pictures. **My portfolio** (<http://500px.com/gamell>)
  - **Traveling**: Have traveled to more than 35 countries and continuously thinking where to go next.