

Johnathan Gilday

Product-focused Distinguished Engineer with 15+ years of experience delivering secure, scalable software for startups and U.S. government programs. Proven ability to translate complex technical challenges into business outcomes—driving architecture, automation, and developer productivity across the Java ecosystem and modern CI/CD platforms. Founding-team contributor at venture-backed startups and former cleared engineer supporting mission-critical systems for the U.S. Intelligence Community.

EXPERIENCE

Pixee — *Distinguished Engineer*

DECEMBER 2022 - PRESENT

- **Founding team member** driving technical strategy for venture-backed developer security startup serving Fortune 500 and Global 3000 enterprises including major financial services, fintech, and technology companies.
- **Led architectural pivot** from multi-tenant SaaS to enterprise deployment model, rearchitecting core platform from AWS serverless GitHub App to Helm-based on-premises solution using Replicated, enabling seamless enterprise adoption.
- **Designed hybrid CI/CD** system using Gradle and Quarkus supporting simultaneous production SaaS delivery and continuous enterprise releases from unified codebase, maintaining product velocity during critical business model transition.
- **Pioneer in organizational AI adoption**, leading implementation of AI agents like Claude Code and workflows across engineering teams, presenting learnings to 600+ person audiences and contributing thought leadership through technical blog at johnnathangilday.com.

Contrast Security — *Distinguished Engineer*

MARCH 2017 - DECEMBER 2022

- **Led technical direction** for Contrast's flagship Java agent product (primary revenue driver) during company hypergrowth from Series B through Series E funding, contributing to automated, real-time security analysis using JVM bytecode transformation with ASM, Java

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[Blog](#)

[GitHub](#)

[Stack Overflow](#)

[Baeldung Articles](#)

EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins University —
M.S. Computer Science

Rutgers University — B.S.
Computer Science

CORE COMPETENCIES

Backend Architecture & Performance

Java ecosystem, JVM optimization, microservices, scalable system design

Customer-Facing Technical Leadership

Stakeholder communication, sales engineering, customer escalation resolution

DevOps & Automation

AWS serverless, CI/CD pipelines, containerization, infrastructure as code

Product Engineering

End-to-end feature delivery, user feedback integration, technical product strategy

Cross-Functional Collaboration

Team mentoring, technical vision, project leadership,

Instrumentation, and Dagger.

- **Optimized performance-critical multi-threaded analysis** running within customer production systems by reducing lock contention, implementing caching, and introducing lazy evaluation using JMH, JFR, JMeter, and YourKit profiling tools.
- **Revolutionized developer productivity** by redesigning integration testing system, reducing feedback cycles from weeks to daily iterations for 24+ developers and scaling to 350+ containerized test applications using Gradle, Docker, JUnit, and Bitbucket Pipelines.
- **Led customer-facing technical initiatives** including sales engineering for enterprise prospects and resolution of 50+ escalated support issues, directly contributing to customer success and product adoption.
- **Scaled engineering organization** as recognized top technical contributor, mentoring teams that grew 5x from 20 to 100+ engineers while maintaining technical excellence through Effective Java book clubs and long-term technical vision development.

Next Century Corporation — Senior Software Engineer

NOVEMBER 2012 - MARCH 2017

- **Deployed cross-domain solutions and engineered greenfield customer filtering system**, delivering user log analysis, cloud automation with Apache NiFi and Python, plus Java backend architecture with JAX-RS and Cassandra clusters across OpenStack infrastructure.
- **Maintained mission-critical data API** serving enterprise microservice mesh with BerkeleyDB JE key-value store, improving system reliability through increased test coverage in Java and Scala codebases and implementing automated deployment pipelines with production monitoring.

U.S. Army CERDEC — Computer Scientist

JULY 2007 - November 2012

Developed prototype mission control applications for web, mobile, and multi-touch platforms, co-authoring [award-winning research on emerging interface technologies](#).

process improvement

AWARDS

2017 Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award at Contrast Security

Multiple team and early-career awards from U.S. Army CERDEC, PEO C3T, AFCEA, and CompTIA recognizing innovation and technical excellence

US DOD Security Clearance

TS//SCI Poly: 2013-03-27

INDOC Date: 2013-04-23

Debrief: 2017-03-03

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