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James Ward

Level 13 Software Engineer

EXPERIENCE POINTS —

Director of Engineering ► Vidrovr

February 2024 — September 2025

Automating video analysis to support better decision making. (Acquired by CesiumAstro)

- Provided guidance for technical and professional growth to all members of the engineering team.
- Implemented observability and automated recovery in Kubernetes to reduce mean time to recovery from hours to minutes.
- Architected a runner for machine learning pipelines in Python using FastAPI, Onyx, and SQLAlchemy to replace Celery-based analysis pipelines.
- Introduced unit testing, integration testing, type checking, and local environments for feature validation - allowing for more frequent deployments with a reduction in unexpected defects.
- Improved the operational maturity of the engineering team to match NIST SP 800-171r3 compliance controls, achieving a DoD Authorization to Operate to fulfill USAF contracts.
- Created a standardized hiring structure and candidate pipeline to build out the software product engineering team.
- Supported the acquisition of Vidrovr and integration of the Vidrovr platform with CesiumAstro's missions.

Engineering ► HumanFirst

October 2020 — February 2024

Building software to enable safe, effective, and equitable healthcare operations at home.

(Acquired by ICON)

- Kept the engineering team's technical strategy aligned with business goals to deliver products driven by both data and user feedback - from the first lines of code of our public API to delivering lines of features that closed sales.
- Led the engineering team to SOC2 and HIPAA readiness via creation of disaster recovery plans using infrastructure as code, incident preparedness playbooks, and features to support the principles of least privilege.
- Developed best practices for both the Typescript backend and React frontend as well as automations to keep the team aligned to those practices.

Senior Engineering Manager ► Venmo

October 2018 — December 2019

- Develop cross-functional initiatives migrating Venmo to a distributed architecture.
- Brought reliability from 90% to 99.999% - from 73 hours to less than 30 seconds of downtime per month.
- Coordinate DEI recruiting initiatives to improve representation of underrepresented groups in hiring.

Co-Founder ► Forkbombus Labs

November 2015 — September 2018

Understanding the human element behind threats to manage the risks they pose.

- Built the Hivemind deception and threat intelligence platform using Node, Kafka, Tensorflow, Postgres, and ElasticSearch to support real-time personalization encouraging intruders to engage so they could be fingerprinted and tracked.

Senior Engineering Manager ► Wayfair

February 2014 — February 2017

Software Engineer ► Limestone Networks

April 2012 — February 2014

Software Architect ► Accrisoft

February 2011 — April 2012

TOOLS I ENJOY —

Java

Spring, Hibernate, Dropwizard,

Storm, Spark

PHP

Laravel, Symfony

SQL

MySQL, MariaDB, T-SQL,

PostgreSQL, CockroachDB

Cobol

COBOL-85

Pascal

Delphi

Python

FastAPI, SQLAlchemy, Django,

Twisted, Pandas, Keras,

Tornado, Celery

Infrastructure

Linux, Kubernetes, Docker,

Helm, Puppet, Terraform,

Pulumi, AWS

Javascript

Typescript, NextJS, Node,

Webpack, Express,

Tensorflow.js, React,

React Native, Expo

NoSQL

HBase, MongoDB, DynamoDB,

Redis, ValKey, DynamoDB,

Cassandra

CSS

CSS3, SASS, LESS

Perl

Mojolicious, CGI

C++

Boost

C

C11, C99, CMake, ncurses, Unity