Jeff Burkhart

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SR. ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

Engineering and technology leader with 15+ years of experience scaling high-performing Cloud, DevOps, SRE, and DevSecOps teams in fast-paced, high-scale environments. Proven success leading cloud transformation initiatives across consumer IoT, life sciences, and enterprise software. Expertise in building high-scale, secure, resilient cloud services, driving operational excellence, and fostering a culture of ownership, accountability, and transparency. Possess strong track record of improving uptime, accelerating delivery pipelines, and optimizing cloud infrastructure for cost and performance.

- **Cloud Services Optimization:** Scaled IoT services by 40% while keeping AWS costs flat by migrating legacy monolithic services to microservices and adopting serverless computing and managed services.
- **DevOps Culture & Incident Readiness:** Established a production engineering function and implemented a company-wide incident management process for improving reliability and organizational response to service disruptions.
- **System Reliability & Observability Uplift:** Improved uptime to 99.9% by developing an effective observability platform, CI/CD implementation, and Secure SDLC practices across mobile, cloud, and embedded platforms.
- **Engineering Team Expansion & Cloud Migration:** Scaled Zymergen's cloud, data, and SRE teams from 4 to 25, migrating compute services to Docker and Kubernetes while enabling advanced bioinformatics workflows.
- **SaaS Transformation & Agile Execution:** Accelerated CollabNet's release cycles from annual to quarterly by deploying Agile at scale across 13 global teams, migrating to AWS, and modernizing the platform into a SaaS offering.
- **Technical Leadership Prowess:** Consistently applied management principles that prioritize customer value, empower teams with clear execution lanes, and foster a culture of ownership, collaboration, and continuous feedback and improvement.

Agile Methodologies | Cloud Computing | Digital Transformation | Lean Management | Budgeting | Process Improvement
Risk Management | AI Platform Integration | Public Cloud | Cloud Services Integration | Product Analytics
Software Design and Development | Machine Learning (ML) | Application Development | Product Strategy Execution
Vulnerability Management | Cloud Infrastructure Development | Software Engineering | Cloud Security | Data Security

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ReasonOS, Gig Harbor, WA   July 2025 – Present
Principal Engineer/Head of Engineering

Oversee the design and delivery of an AI-first platform that unifies infrastructure provisioning, service development, CI/CD, infrastructure as code, and observability. Lead core platform strategy and execution as a founding engineering leader. Define technical vision and engineering standards for guiding platform architecture, delivery discipline, and team execution. Manage the implementation of new capabilities while scaling a high-performing, distributed engineering organization.

- **Expanded platform adoption** by enabling C and C++ development support, broadening the range of systems and workloads supported by the platform.
- **Optimized developer flexibility** by delivering native Go language support, which improved the platform's appeal to modern backend and systems engineers.
- **Improved system reliability** by hardening the core build system in preparation for production-scale usage.
- **Recruited the core engineering team** to help establish offshore engineering expansion capabilities and accelerate product delivery.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: AWS, GCP, Azure, Kubernetes, gRPC, GraphQL, Bazel, Go, Skylark, Cursor, CodeBuff, Git

Sleep Number LABS, Gig Harbor, WA   October 2020 – June 2025
Sr. Director, DevOps & DevSecOps

Coordinated engineering operations for a large-scale IoT ecosystem supporting up to 2M customers across embedded software, mobile, cloud, and data science. Directed DevOps, DevSecOps, and SRE teams in building secure, scalable infrastructure and accelerating time to value for digital services.

- **Increased system scale by 40%** while keeping AWS spending flat to maintain cost efficiency.
- **Reduced deployment time by 90%** by redesigning pipelines, decoupling services and automating manual deployment steps. Resulted in shortening delivery from four hours to 25 minutes.
- **Improved system reliability to 99.9% uptime** by introducing a new production engineering team, implementing the observability platform, creating effective runbooks and defining effective incident response protocols.

- **Enabled faster engineering velocity** by implementing Secure SDLC, CI/CD automation, and self-service IaC.
- **Elevated operational maturity** through the integration of DevSecOps controls and continuous security validation.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: AWS, Kafka/MSK, Fargate, Lambda, Terraform, SonarQube, Tenable, Sumo Logic, DataDog, RDS/Aurora, Linux, Agile, Jira, Git, Microservices, Java

Zymergen, Emeryville, CA   December 2016 – October 2020
Sr. Engineering Director

Directed cloud, data engineering, and SRE functions for a pioneering synthetic biology company. Built a 25-person team from the ground up to support scientific computing, scalable infrastructure, and data-intensive workflows.

- **Boosted platform performance** by several orders of magnitude through automation, CI, and removal of various architectural bottlenecks.
- **Enabled parallel computing at scale** by deploying custom job execution services.
- **Enhanced data processing capabilities** by implementing ETL pipelines using Kafka and Airflow.
- **Enabled effective scaling of services and CI/CD** through containerizing all major services using Docker and deploying to Kubernetes.
- **Secured access and compliance** by rolling out centralized authentication and access control systems.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: AWS, Kubernetes, Docker, Lambda, Airflow, RabbitMQ, Snowflake, RDS/MySQL, ElasticSearch, Linux, Agile, Git, Jira, Java

CollabNet, San Francisco, CA   March 2015 – November 2016
Sr. Engineering Director

Oversaw global cloud platform development for enterprise software tools used by large-scale engineering teams. Led a 100+ person global engineering organization spanning cloud services, mobile, and QE.

- **Augmented release frequency by 300%** by shifting from annual to quarterly delivery cycles.
- **Expanded quality assurance coverage and agility** by expediting the transformation of the QA organization to a true QE organization, as well as implementing CI pipelines.
- **Strengthened global collaboration** by scaling Agile execution across 13 distributed engineering teams.
- **Minimized infrastructure complexity** by migrating legacy data center deployments to AWS.
- **Modernized product delivery process** by rearchitecting the platform into a multi-tenant SaaS solution.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: AWS, Linux, Java, Ruby, MongoDB, RabbitMQ, Oracle, Postgres, SVN, Git, Jira, Agile

Attensity Corp., Palo Alto, CA   March 2014 – February 2015
Engineering Director

Supervised operations involving server engineering, QA, and DevOps for a platform that offers advanced social media analysis from Twitter, Facebook, and other sources. Focused on backend systems that applied NLP to real-time data streams.

- **Enabled more efficient processing of over 2TB of daily data** by implementing scalable backend pipelines with integrated sentiment and NLP analysis.
- **Enhanced data sources and capabilities** by driving partnerships and onboarding new content sources.
- **Streamlined cross-functional alignment** by integrating DevOps and QA into a unified engineering function.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: Java, Akka, MongoDB, Vertica, RabbitMQ, Redis, Linux, Lucene, Attensity NLP, Agile

TiVo, Santa Clara, CA   June 2007 – March 2013
Engineering Director, Server Engineering

Managed a 60-person team responsible for backend engineering and production infrastructure. Supervised the delivery of services supporting consumer electronics, IoT devices, and partnerships with major global media providers.

- **Slashed partner deployment timelines by 85%** by streamlining external release processes, cutting the duration from eight weeks to just two days.
- **Scaled engineering capacity by 50%** through strategic hiring and team development.
- **Extended market reach** by productizing the Video on Demand service and launching partner integrations with Comcast, Netflix, Amazon, and YouTube.
- **Enabled long-term scalability** by implementing a distributed service architecture and establishing a production engineering function.
- **Played a crucial role in forging enterprise partnerships** by negotiating complex statements of work (SOWs) and leading server engineering for TiVo's largest partnerships including Comcast, Cox, Virgin Media, Netflix, and Amazon.

Tech Stack/Methodologies: Linux, Apache, Tomcat, Java, C++, MySQL, Perl, XML, UML, Agile

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Director of Engineering | LiveScribe
Director of Enterprise Engineering | Premiere Retail Networks
Director of Product Development | Embarcadero

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Computer & Information Science | University of California, Santa Cruz – Santa Cruz, CA

TECHNICAL SKILLS

AWS | GCP | Azure | Kubernetes | gRPC | GraphQL | Bazel | Go | Skylark | Fargate | Lambda | RDS | Aurora | Docker
Terraform | Serverless Computing | Apache | Tomcat
Java | C++ | Python | Perl | Ruby | C# | ARM9 Assembly | PL/SQL | Transact-SQL | Git | CI/CD | Jenkins
IaC | Secure SDLC | Observability | Incident Management | MySQL | PostgreSQL | Oracle | MongoDB | Snowflake | Redis
Vertica | NoSQL | MSK | Kafka | RabbitMQ | Akka | Sumo Logic | Datadog | SonarQube | Tenable | Agile | Jira
Microservices | Distributed Systems | Multi-Tenant Architecture | UML | Design Patterns | DevSecOps | OCI | XML | MFC
Authentication and Access Control | Embedded Software | IoT | ARM | Sonivox Audio Engine
Natural Language Processing (NLP) | WPF | .NET | COM | Win32 | J2EE | JSF

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Visionary Leadership | Executive Presence | Mentoring | Conflict Resolution | Emotional Intelligence | Coaching | Empathy
Cross-Functional Collaboration | Communication Skills | Persistence | People Development | Team Management (4 - 100+)