Kahlil Wassell

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer with 4+ years of experience designing and operating scalable backend systems and APIs. Strong background in distributed systems, cloud-based services, and real-time data pipelines. Experienced in modernizing legacy platforms, establishing API standards, and mentoring engineers on system design and observability. Currently completing an M.S. in Computer Science.

EXPERIENCE

McMaster-Carr, Elmhurst, IL

Senior Software Engineer   March 2023-Present

- Designed and delivered scalable REST APIs supporting critical business workflows and platform.
- Architected and deployed distributed backend services using C#/.NET, emphasizing interface-driven design and long-term maintainability.
- Implemented Apache Kafka-based event pipelines to synchronize data across services, reducing update latency from days to seconds, and handling thousands of changes per second.
- Partnered with engineers to deploy and integrate services into existing infrastructure, balancing backward compatibility with new platform capabilities.
- Designed logging and observability strategies to monitor service health, diagnose failures, and support incidence response and root cause analysis.
- Established internal standards and abstractions for Kafka usage, enabling consistent adoption across multiple teams.
- Mentored engineers on API design principles, schema evolution, and service boundaries.

McMaster-Carr, Elmhurst, IL

Software Engineer   September 2021-March 2023

- Designed and implemented RESTful APIs and microservices supporting internal web applications
- Re-architected legacy data workflows into a centralized system improving system reliability and maintainability. Retiring a network of 50,000 manually maintained spreadsheets.
- Applied object-oriented design principles to reduce duplication and improve code clarity.

McMaster-Carr, Elmhurst, IL

Tech Training Leader   March 2025- June 2025

- Led a cohort of 7 engineers through the design and implementation of an API-driven platform.
- Provided technical leadership on system architecture, API contracts, and data model evolution.

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

M.S. in Computer Science (Part-time)   Expected May, 2025

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA

S.B. in Mechanical Engineering   May, 2021

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- REST API design
- Distributed Systems
- Cloud Computing
- Algorithms
- Big Data
- *Computer Skills:* C#/.NET, Python, Javascript, Java, C++, Apache Kafka, MongoDB, AWS, Docker, CI/CD