Chandra Kuchi

Engineering Lead

Address: Mountain View, CA, US

Email: kck325@gmail.com

Engineering leader with deep expertise in gen AI, large-scale data infrastructure, and distributed systems.

EXPERIENCE

xAI
November 2024 - May 2025

Member of Technical Staff

- One of the top contributors to xAI product code and X's monorepo during my time.
- Architected and operated backend services for Grok reasoning & DeepSearch, supporting multi-minute queries with 99% completion rate.
- Designed, implemented, and solely maintained the "Grok" button on X posts, bringing AI summaries to millions of users.
- Led backend development for the "Ask Grok" bot family, delivering performant APIs that handle millions of daily interactions.

Robinhood
March 2021 - November 2024

Senior Engineering Manager (Data Infrastructure)

- Led a team of 25 engineers across Streaming, Batch Compute, and Data Lake teams
- Entrusted with the responsibility to build and maintain mission-critical data infrastructure. The systems I manage comprise Kafka, Spark, Presto, Airflow, Flink, and CDC
- Key achievements:
  - Led and delivered significant projects that helped to mitigate and reduce the critical R0 risks for the company, assuring our business continuity
  - Improved customer confidence in the Airflow product. This achievement was made possible by enhancing its reliability and centralizing its infrastructure
  - Implemented a strategic balance between long-term initiatives with immediate business needs, ensuring the company's stability and growth
  - Scaled data infrastructure aligning it with the company's expansion, whilst optimizing resource utilization to ensure cost-effectiveness
  - Directed modernization efforts across the entire data infrastructure stack, ensuring our systems stayed up-to-date and efficient

Robinhood
April 2020 - March 2021

Software Engineer (Software Platform)

- First engineer on the newly formed Kafka team within the Software Platform organization
- Designed and developed asynchronous messaging systems supporting Robinhood's online trading platform
- Key projects:
  - Designed and deployed an efficient sidecar proxy for Kafka communication in EC2 and Kubernetes environments
  - Implemented authentication and authorization support for all Kafka clusters
  - Optimized Kafka clusters to support 2x more volume with the same resources

Zoox
August 2018 - October 2019

Technical Lead (Robotic Data Platform)

- Led the data function of the infrastructure team
- Modernized data pipelines to handle petabyte-scale data processing that improved data systems reliability from 90% availability to 99.9% along with improving end to latency from days to 1 hour
- Designed and built caching systems and analytics platforms for data science teams

Twilio
June 2017 - August 2018

Staff Software Engineer

- Led development of Twilio's Programmable Wireless product from preview to general availability
- Designed and developed a custom billing engine using big data architectures (Spark, Kafka, Akka Streams)
- Improved API resilience and operational maturity

Twilio
June 2015 - August 2017

Senior Software Engineer

- Led efforts on the billing platform team to achieve IPO readiness
- Integrated ERP systems and implemented complex taxation logic across multiple geographical locations
- Scaled micro-transaction platform to handle billions of transactions per month

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati
2008 - 2010

Master of Science (Computer Engineering)

National Institute of Technology Durgapur
2002 - 2006

Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)

SKILLS

- Programming: Scala, Java, Python, Rust, Golang
- Big Data Technologies: Apache Spark, Apache Kafka, Apache Flink, Presto
- Cloud & Infrastructure: Kubernetes, AWS