LOWELL KITCHEN

Lead Software Engineer, Payments & Political Organizing

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SUMMARY

Experienced software engineer and technical leader with over 18 years of experience in designing and building multi-tenanted SaaS platforms. I specialize in payment processing and political organizing platforms that have enabled thousands nonprofits and political organizations to engage with their supporters and raise billions of dollars.

Skilled in developing user-friendly software, payment fraud analysis & mitigation, and scaling high volume payment platforms. Passionate about mentoring teams, solving complex problems, and delivering impactful results.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Software Engineer, Payments
Bonterra
2023 - 2025
Remote

- Led a high-performing product engineering team in the design and development of a multi-tenant payment processing platform built on top of Stripe and PayPal. This platform supports thousands of prominent nonprofits and political campaigns, processing millions of transactions annually.
- Spearheaded the technical design and rollout of wallet-based payment methods, including Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, and Venmo, which collectively raised millions of dollars for EveryAction and NGP VAN clients during the pivotal 2024 election cycle.
- Optimized Stripe integrations by implementing advanced fraud detection and prevention mechanisms, significantly reducing fraudulent activity and reducing costly false positives. These efforts saved clients millions of dollars while bolstering trust in the integrity of the payments platform.
- Drove a 400% increase in new Stripe account setups by leveraging Stripe's embedded React components to streamline the onboarding process, enabling clients to seamlessly integrate with our payments platform and achieve faster time-to-value.
- Collaborated with business stakeholders to ensure alignment between technical and business objectives.
- Mentored a distributed team of software and quality assurance engineers.

Software Team Lead, Political Organizing & Fundraising
Bonterra
2022 - 2023
Remote

- Led a product engineering team developing political organizing and fundraising features for the EveryAction & NGP VAN platform.
- Led a year-long project to redesign core contact record functionality of the NGP VAN CRM platform.
- Designed and implemented an integration between NGP VAN and the Facebook Ad platform to help facilitate online advertising for our clients.
- Managed and mentored a distributed team of software and quality assurance engineers.
- Conducted team performance reviews.

Software Team Lead, Political Organizing & Fundraising
EveryAction
2019 - 2022
Remote

- Led a product engineering team designing and developing the EveryAction and NGP VAN platform APIs.
- Led the design and development of bulk import and export APIs to support a two-way data sync between EveryAction and Salesforce.
- Significantly increased throughput of our mobile messaging (SMS) platform by implementing parallelization into the job processor responsible for sending mass SMS messages.
- Managed and mentored a distributed team of software and quality assurance engineers.
- Conducted team performance reviews.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Led technical design & rollout of wallet-based payment methods
including Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, & Venmo for the EveryAction & NGP VAN platform. New payment methods raised approx. $2MM in 2024

Improved payments fraud detection
by optimizing our Stripe integrations (using Stripe Radar & MaxMind) to reduce payments fraud and 'false positive' fraud blocking, saving our clients millions of dollars and improving the integrity of our payments platform

Drove a 400% increase in new Stripe account setups
by leveraging Stripe's embedded React components to make significant usability improvements to the account setup process

Major contributions to the BSD Tools payments platform
that helped raise billions of dollars for major political campaigns and led to the acquisition of the BSD Tools in 2019

TOP SKILLS

Team Leadership · Software Design ·

Software/Product Development ·

API Development · Distributed Systems ·

SaaS Platforms · Payment Platforms ·

Fraud Analysis & Prevention · Stripe ·

Stripe Connect · Stripe Radar · PayPal ·

C# · PHP · JavaScript · TypeScript ·

HTML · CSS · SQL Server · MySQL · .NET ·

React · AWS · Azure

VOLUNTEERING

Lighthouse Keeper

Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Association

2023 - Present

I dedicate one week each summer to volunteering as a part-time lighthouse keeper for the Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Association.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer
2019 - 2019
EveryAction
Remote
- Contributed to the design and development of political organizing and fundraising software for the BSD Tools (acquired by EveryAction in 2019), EveryAction & NGP VAN platforms.

Senior Software Engineer
2015 - 2019
Blue State Digital
Boston, MA
- Full stack application design and development of political organizing and fundraising software.
- Led the technical design and implementation of payment fraud detection capabilities using MaxMind and Stripe Radar.

Lead Software Engineer
2015 - 2023
Game Show Network (GSN Games)
Waltham, MA
- Led a web engineering team for the online gaming platforms WorldWinner & GSN Games.

Software Engineer
2006 - 2013
Blue State Digital
Boston, MA
- Contributed to the design and development of the pioneering political organizing and fundraising platform known as the BSD Tools.
- Made significant contributions to the BSD Tools payment processing capabilities, which raised billions of dollars for major political campaigns and nonprofits between 2006 and 2019.

Web Application Developer
2004 - 2006
Blue Fox
Shelburne Falls, MA
- Led the development of websites and web applications for small businesses and higher educational institutes.
- Performed basic web server administration tasks including configuring Apache and MySQL.

Web Manager
2003 - 2004
JC Danczak
Westfield, MA
- Managed all aspects of the company's online presence.
- Designed and implemented e-commerce website and online marketing strategy.
- Tripled yearly sales revenue in less than one year.

Technology Instructor
1999 - 2004
Hampshire Educational Collaborative
Northampton, MA
- Developed course curriculum and taught adult basic education computer literacy courses.

Adjunct Technology Instructor
2003 - 2004
Holyoke Community College
Holyoke, MA
- Developed course curriculum and taught classes in web development using Macromedia Dreamweaver.

Web Developer
2000 - 2003
Gravity Switch
Northampton, MA
- Contributed to the design and development of custom web applications for small-medium sized businesses and higher educational institutes.

EDUCATION

Computer Science
1997 - 1999
The University of Georgia
- Completed 2 year of introductory computer science courses