Steven Atkinson

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- Mature software developer: **20 years of software experience** and a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia.

- **SaaS enterprise expert**: 15 years working for LinkedIn and Netflix combined. **Eighth employee at LinkedIn**, seeing that company grow from 27 thousand members to about 5 million. Understanding and refactoring complex full-stack systems.

- Key quality: Thoroughness and **Persistence in the face of challenges**.

Experience

Senior Staff Engineer at Netflix Dec 2013 - Present
- Condensed site to 3 website servers (90% reduction).
- Saved **$500k+** removing legacy systems.
- Team efforts yielded record operating margin of **65%**.
- Drove a security improvement program for the site reducing traffic by **90%** to some endpoints.
- Re-architected large areas improving resilience and reducing response times by **50%** in some cases.
- Introduced client-encryption of card details ensuring 100% of credit cards across Netflix never leak.
- Decreased traffic volume to streaming services more than **60%** for customer recognition and login.

Distance Learning Instructor at Virginia Tech Jan 2017 - Present
- Raised enrollment by **100%** over 3 years to more than 60 students/class.
- Directed curriculum and model projects for 14 week Web and Android courses
- Defined 5 real-world patterns that layer on each other using project-based-learning
- Published two papers and received consistent evaluations 5%+ above department
- Answered hundreds of student questions using an online forum as moderator

Principal Software Engineer at Kaazing Apr 2011 – Dec 2013 (2 years 8 months)
- Assisted the sales team to retain our largest two customers generating **$100k** revenue.
- Authored the Enterprise Shield™ method for two major banks allowing connections to be made through closed firewalls to shield the internal network from outside access.
- Awarded 2 patents used for leveraging proprietary WebSocket extensions.
- Contributed to the core hi-speed gateway product, and to clients in 5 languages.
- Defined a pluggable single-sign-on solution for native web sockets to retain 2 major customers with variations in their identity management schemes.

Senior Software Engineer at Netflix Jul 2007 - Mar 2011 (3 years 9 months)
• Created and led a 3-person "tending the garden" team to repay technical debt, removing and simplifying more than 5 major subsystems untangling monolith tendrils.
• Spearheaded launch of acquisition team's first TV and device products for Sony PS3 and CE devices; engagement was **50%** more popular than anticipated, so Wall Street guidance for the quarter required adjustment. Robust engineering was crucial.
• Executed e-commerce team's Canada launch **4 weeks ahead of schedule**.
• Drove creation and adoption of an acquisition experiment system improving accuracy for guest-driven tests often by more than 1% (confidence interval size).
• Cajoled 50 engineers to **reduce downtime** from 4 hours to 20 minutes for site pushes.
• Introduced e-commerce team to Spring transactions saving 2-3 weeks of development time and debt across acquisition and account teams.

Senior Software Engineer at Entrege Jun 2005 - Jul 2007 (2 years 2 months)
• Lead engineer in a team of two engineers for a pre-Google-Docs hyper-secure auditable Digital Content Vault with compliance and auditing use cases in mind.
• **Hired** 3 contractors for Windows, backend design, and user experience improvements.
• Architected builds, databases, operations/deployment obviating need for one FTE.

Senior Software Engineer at LinkedIn Sep 2003 - Oct 2005 (2 years 2 months)
• Joined the core founders as the first non-founding engineer hired externally
• Instituted daily testing for business logic and acceptance test suites minimizing time-to-resolution with early results every morning.
• Implemented key features for **growth** and usage increasing the customer base by **18000%** over two years. Features include: groups, ignore-invitations, address-book, customer service tools, jobs, InMails, reference search.

Education

The University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia
Ph.D., Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, 1994 - 1997
University of Queensland Medal (awarded 1994)
B.Information Technology, First Class Honors (1993)