Prajna KANDARPA

Engineering Management | Full Stack Engineering | Cloud Ops | Data Science

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♀ Hyderabad, India

Mechatronics (Robotics) Engineer with expertise in engineering leadership, people management, software development, product management, technical recruiting, machine learning and full stack development. I've been an early/founding employee at multiple startups (Ubiq Inc., Acerta Systems Analytics, Muse Wearables) and have work experience in the USA, Canada and India. I'm proficient in front end development, backend developement, Container infrastructure (Kubernetes), DevOps (AWS, Azure, GCP), technical hiring and project management.

I've been an early / founding engineer at companies working in enterprise productivity (Ubiq, Inc.), machine learning, smart hardware and data science (Acerta Systems, Muse Wearables) and have built and managed large teams working on enterprise AI (CognitiveScale, Inc).

You should reach out to me if you need a technically proficient engineering leader that can build teams which turn ideas dependent on machine learning into software products that can scale to millions of users

☰ COMPETENCIES

People Management	**Mentorship**, **Career Guidance**, **Hiring**, Goal Setting
Product Development	**Technical Architecture**, UX Wireframing, **Product Roadmaps**, **Project Management**
Technical Management	Jira, Asana, Confluence, Gliffy, Trello
Platforms	Docker, Kubernetes, Rancher
Programming	**Python**, **Javascript**, **R**, **Go**, **Java**, **C**
Databases	MySQL, PostgreSQL, mongoDB, Redis, Hadoop, Hive, ElasticSearch
Development Tools	**Emacs**, **vim**, **Visual Studio Code**, **IntelliJ Idea**, npm, git, RStudio, Android Studio, XCode
Operating Systems	Mac OS X, Linux, iOS, Android
Cloud Ops	AWS, Azure, Rancher, Google Cloud

🎓 EDUCATION

2010-2016	Bachelor of Appplied Science in Mechatronics Engineering (Hons.), University of Waterloo, Canada
2010	International Undergraduate Scholarship, Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo

💼 WORK EXPERIENCE

Since December 2020	**Director of Engineering & Product | Leadership, COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India**

> Managed and led the Engineering, QA and SRE teams for the India division of CognitiveScale
> Mentor and guide all engineers (14 direct, 6 indirect reports) with their career goals, technical objectives and personal growth through regular bi-weekly 1:1s
> Determine product development priorities, plan development timelines along with Chief Engineers and VPs from the Austin HQ
> Work closely with partners like RedHat, AWS, GCP and Azure to ensure our product is available on all major cloud marketplaces
> Manage all hiring related activities for the Product team including hiring policies, interview guidelines, candidate selection and new employee onboarding
> Achieved almost 100% employee satisfaction rate in coaching effectiveness, mentoring, employee work life balance and workload assignment
> Work closely with the GM and MD in India to determine Company policies, design company culture and fit guidelines and generally ensure employee retention and satisfaction

Kubernetes | CI/CD | DevOps | AWS | Azure | Google Cloud | Redhat OpenShift | Product Roadmaps | Machine Learning | People Management | Mentoring | Technical Hiring | Project Management

November 2020	**Sr. Technical Lead	Project Management, CᴏɢɴɪᴛɪᴠᴇSᴄᴀʟᴇ, Iɴᴄ, Hyderabad, India**
November 2018	

> Cloud Marketplace Deployments for our AI Trust Lifecycle Management Product - Cortex Certifai

> Help customers integrate their models into Cortex Certifai to determine AI business risk wrt to bias/fairness, explainability, robustness and regulatory compliance measures

> Develop products to use in the platform showcase for Cortex, a proprietary AI/ML lifecycle management service

> Instrumented conversational bots with Natural Language Understanding and Dialogue prediction

> Designed and managed development for a proprietary data labelling and annotation tool for NLP applications

> Mentored employees and interns in software development best practices

Python | Docker | Product Roadmaps | Machine Learning | Deployment Automation | Natural Language Processing
Anomaly Detection

November 2018	**Vice President - Software, Mᴜsᴇ Wᴇᴀʀᴀʙʟᴇs, Bangalore, India**
April 2018	

> Recruited and formed the entire software team including Front-end Engineers, Backend Engineers and Android/iOS engineers.

> Formulated weekly development plans to fulfill our product roadmap

> Colllaborated with the Product head to develop UI/UX ideas, feature development and market research

> Setup social media analytics for ad optimisation on Google Adsense and Facebook Pixel

> Helped optimise our crowdfunding campaigns and secured over **$140,000** worth of pre-orders for our hybrid smartwatches

> Designed and lead the development of a bot based user coaching/engagement platform for personal health, fitness and finance

Product Development | Natural language Processing | NFC Payments | Mobile Apps | Leadership | Backend Development

April 2018	**Senior Software Engineer, CᴏɢɴɪᴛɪᴠᴇSᴄᴀʟᴇ, Iɴᴄ, Hyderabad, India**
April 2017	

> Built machine learning enabled solutions for clients

> Developed user interfaces for visualising the business impact of our solutions built for clients

> Architected backend stacks to scale to hundreds of thousands of users

MongoDB | PostgreSQL | Python | Java | Scala | Docker | Rancher | React.js | Node.js | ES6

June - Dec 2016	**Full Stack Engineer, Aᴄᴇʀᴛᴀ Sʏsᴛᴇᴍs Aɴᴀʟʏᴛɪᴄs, Waterloo, Canada**
July - Dec 2015	

> Designed and built web apps, backend services, machine learning models and data processing pipelines during a 14 month stint as **Employee #1**

> Worked in **Javascript, Python (scikit-learn), R(stats, dplyr), Go(fasthttp)**

> Trained new employees in R and Python for data modelling and visualization

> Project scope finalizations with Fiat Chrysler engineers to deliver solutions for their data analytics

Data Science | R | Automotive | Aeronautical | Industrial Monitoring

June 2015	**Full Stack Engineer	Video Streaming	OS X, Uʙɪǫ, Iɴᴄ, Waterloo, Canada**
March 2015	

> Built an OS X application for streaming wirelessly to enterprise meeting rooms

> Improved streaming latency by **80%** and worked in Objective-C, C, Cocoa and Xcode

> Provided customer support as well as on site product installations

OS X | Multimedia Streaming | FFMPEG | XCode | Cocoa

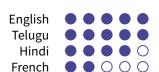| January 2015 | **Diagnostics Engineering Intern | Manufacturing Automation | Hardware Diagnostics, Aʀɪsᴛᴀ Nᴇᴛᴡᴏʀᴋs, Santa Clara, California** |
|---|---|
| May 2014 | |

> Created software based hardware test automation of a new gigabit ethernet switch

> Collaborated with Hardware, Software and Bootloader teams

Python | C | Linux | PCB Bringup | Hardware testing

🌐 Lᴀɴɢᴜᴀɢᴇs

English ●●●●●
Telugu ●●●●●
Hindi ●●●●○
French ●●○○○

🌐 Hᴏʙʙɪᴇs

Gym ●●●●○
Boxing ●●○○○
Table Tennis ●●●●○
Badminton ●●●●○

💻 Pʀᴏᴊᴇᴄᴛs

Talon Drone Deliveries

2015-2016

⬀ https://talonco.github.io

An add-on kit for delivery trucks that enables drone deliveries without massive capital requirements. Responsible for Radio communications, flight controller tuning and route planning backend

[Drone Flight Control] [ArduPilot] [Raspberry Pi] [Computer Vision]

Crop Yield Prediction

Feb - Mar 2016

⬀ Link to paper

Evaluated multiple machine learning models including SVM, Neural nets and Random forests to predict crop yields in India from a dataset containing meteorological and geographical features

[LaTeX] [R] [Data Science] [Time Series Predictions]

❝ References

Sai Prasanth
CEO & Co-Founder, Muse Wearables

@ Email available on request
📞 Phone No available on request

Pankaj Vaish
Managing Director, CognitiveScale India

@ Email available on request
📞 Phone No available on request