

Prajna KANDARPA (PRAJ)

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

in [linkedin.com/in/prajnak](https://www.linkedin.com/in/prajnak)  github.com/prajnak

☎ +91 9885463033 @ prajna.kandarpa@gmail.com

📍 Hyderabad, India

Engineering Director with expertise in engineering leadership, people management, full stack software development, product management, technical recruiting and machine learning.

Early/founding employee at multiple venture and accelerator funded startups and have work experience in the USA, Canada and India. My experience spans companies doing manufacturing IOT analytics and machine learning ([Acerta Systems Analytics](#), [Muse Wearables](#)) and most recently, have built and managed large teams working on enterprise AI platforms ([CognitiveScale, Inc.](#)).

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

December 2022
December 2020

Director of Engineering, COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India

- Managed and led the Engineering and QA, (briefly, SRE) teams for the India division of CognitiveScale, Inc.
- 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 for [Cortex Certifai](#) and [Cortex Fabric](#)
- 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 Engineering team including hiring policies, interview guidelines, candidate selection and new employee onboarding
- 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
November 2018

Sr. Technical Lead , COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India

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

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

November 2018
April 2018

Vice President - Software, MUSE WEARABLES, Bangalore, India

- Recruited and formed the entire software team including Front-end Engineers, Backend Engineers and Android/iOS engineers.
- Collaborated with the Product head to develop UI/UX ideas, feature development and market research
- 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
April 2017

Senior Software Engineer, COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India

- Developed user interfaces for visualising the business impact of our machine learning enabled solutions on client usecases
- 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, ACERTA SYSTEMS ANALYTICS, Waterloo, Canada > 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)
July - Dec 2015	
	<div>Data Science</div> <div>R</div> <div>Automotive</div> <div>Aeronautical</div> <div>Industrial Monitoring</div>
January 2015	Diagnostics Engineering Intern Manufacturing Automation Hardware Diagnostics, ARISTA NETWORKS, Santa Clara, California > Created software based hardware test automation of a new gigabit ethernet switch and collaborated with Hardware, Software and Bootloader teams
May 2014	<div>Python</div> <div>C</div> <div>Linux</div> <div>PCB Bringup</div> <div>Hardware testing</div>

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
Programming	Python, Javascript, R, Go, Java, C
Platforms	Docker, Kubernetes, GoCD
Cloud Ops	AWS, Azure, Rancher, Google Cloud
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

REFERENCES

Pankaj Vaish
Managing Director
 COGNITIVESCALE INDIA

Steve Teleki
VP - Software Product Engineering
 COGNITIVESCALE, INC. USA

EDUCATION

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

LANGUAGES

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

HOBBIES

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

PROJECTS

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

TeX

R

Data Science

Time Series Predictions