

Prajna KANDARPA

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

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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.](#)).

Do you need a capable engineering leader that can build and manage teams which turn ideas dependent on machine learning or data into software products that can scale to millions of users? Let's talk! Setup some time on my [Calendly](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

December 2022 December 2020	Director of Engineering, COGNITIVESCALE, Inc, Hyderabad, India <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 1:1sDetermine product development priorities, plan development timelines along with Chief Engineers and VPs from the Austin, TX HQ for Cortex Certifai and Cortex FabricWork closely with partners, RedHat, AWS, GCP, and Azure to ensure our product is available on all major cloud marketplacesManage all hiring related activities for the Product Engineering team including hiring policies, interview guidelines, candidate selection, and new employee onboardingWork 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 <div><div>Kubernetes</div><div>CI/CD</div><div>DevOps</div><div>AWS</div><div>Azure</div><div>Google Cloud</div><div>Redhat OpenShift</div><div>Product Roadmaps</div><div>Machine Learning</div><div>People Management</div><div>Mentoring</div><div>Technical Hiring</div><div>Project Management</div></div>
November 2020 November 2018	Sr. Technical Lead , COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India <ul style="list-style-type: none">Help customers integrate their models into Cortex Certifai to determine AI business risk wrt to bias, fairness, explainability, robustness, and regulatory compliance measuresInstrumented conversational bots with Natural Language Understanding and Dialogue predictionDesigned and managed development for a proprietary data labelling and annotation tool for NLP applications <div><div>Python</div><div>Docker</div><div>Product Roadmaps</div><div>Machine Learning</div><div>Deployment Automation</div><div>Natural Language Processing</div><div>Anomaly Detection</div></div>
November 2018 April 2018	Vice President - Software, MUSE WEARABLES, Bangalore, India <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 researchHelped optimise our crowdfunding campaigns and secured over \$140,000 worth of pre-orders for our hybrid smartwatchesDesigned and lead the development of a bot based user coaching/engagement platform for personal health, fitness and finance <div><div>Product Development</div><div>Natural language Processing</div><div>NFC Payments</div><div>Mobile Apps</div><div>Leadership</div><div>Backend Development</div></div>
April 2018 April 2017	Senior Software Engineer, COGNITIVESCALE, INC, Hyderabad, India <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed user interfaces for visualising the business impact of our machine learning enabled solutions on client usecasesArchitected backend stacks to scale to hundreds of thousands of users <div><div>MongoDB</div><div>PostgreSQL</div><div>Python</div><div>Java</div><div>Scala</div><div>Docker</div><div>Rancher</div><div>React.js</div><div>Node.js</div><div>ES6</div></div>

June - Dec 2016	Full Stack Engineer, ACERTA SYSTEMS ANALYTICS, Waterloo, Canada
July - Dec 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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)
	<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
May 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Created software based hardware test automation of a new gigabit ethernet switch and collaborated with Hardware, Software and Bootloader teams
	<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