Priya Samuel

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I have a people first approach to leading engineering teams - prioritising building safe spaces for team members to thrive in their area of work. My role is fluid - it involves wearing many hats from being a team and process enabler, problem solver, and a software engineer.

I'm a strong believer in Agile and reactive methodologies to deliver software, both at ThoughtWorks and at Dotscience I drove Agile processes forward to ensure there was visibility and predictability around software delivery. I don't believe that one-size-fits-all, so each team I've worked I've setup practices that is tuned for that specific team/environment.

I'm technology agnostic software engineer and I work across teams to deliver scalable, fail-fast and resilient microservice platforms. I lead and empower autonomous DevOps teams to drive better ownership around technology solutions, and having well rounded teams. The twelve-factor methodology for building software-as-a-service nicely captures the ethos that I hold myself accountable to.

Dotscience

VP of Engineering, Dotscience, (Aug 2019 - Aug 2020)

- Technical Leadership, strategy and enablement - Led a team of exceptionally talented individuals, building an end-to-end data science platform. Ensured the team had clear technical direction, fast feedback cycles, and iterative feature development.
- Making work visible - I prioritised making the engineering process “our own” i.e making it agile and flexible enough to cater for the needs of various engineering teams. I 'broadcasted' ongoing work via various channels, making sure blockers were addressed quickly, and product/UX/engineering were all in sync.
- Cultivated psychological safety within the team by setting clear goals, de-stigmatising failures, inviting participation around team and technology decisions, and conflict resolution.
- Supported career development and performance reviews for a team of 12 engineers.

Member Of Technical Staff (Jan 2018 - Aug 2020)

- Co-ordinating and overseeing the overall the end-to-end architecture for services delivering the Dotscience platform. #Go #AWS #GCP #Postgres #Kubernetes
- Implemented GoLang services that powered the backend of Dotscience. This comprised of multiple microservices that communicated via HTTP / GRPC to enable users to develop, build, deploy and monitor Tensorflow models.
- Instrumented Terraform to automate cloud deployments, worked extensively on AWS, Google Cloud, and on-prem installs.
- Kubernetes orchestration (within GKE and EKS) and managing automated deployments of cloud native applications.
- Set up CI/CD and support, operational maintenance of live systems, using Drone and GitLab.

ThoughtWorks

Technology Lead, ThoughtWorks, London (July 2013 - Dec 2017)

- As a consultant I’ve worked on a varied set of frameworks and pick up skill sets that are required from project to project, primarily working on DevOps roles aimed at automating cloud deployments and maintaining infrastructure-as-code.
- EU Horizon 2020 Project (Feb 2017 - Dec 2018) - Technology Lead for a distributed team, building a decentralised blockchain based identity platform for EU citizens within the DECODE project, part of the EU Horizon 2020 venture. Responsible for technical co-ordination leading to the development of the underlying architecture, privacy by design, smart rules interfaces, and initial pilot applications.
- Large publishing client (Feb 2016 - Feb 2017) - Technology Lead and service architect on building an academic centric social network for a client in the publishing sector, resulting in a successful technology transformation project (using Java, Scala and React). My role involved not only shaping the architecture road map but also setting up a safe environment for a development team to thrive with empowerment and support.
- Large publishing client (Aug 2015 - Feb 2016) - Delivered scalable web applications and worked on transforming legacy systems into Go microservices with REST API's. Set up monitoring, alerting, and Continuous Delivery pipelines, to enable fast feedback cycles.
- Large retail client (Germany, Oct 2014 - Aug 2015) - Worked extensively on Scala/Java microservices written with asynchronous web frameworks, delivered a platform migration from a datacenter to the cloud (AWS) with end-to-end automated Infrastructure-as-a-service.
- Large publishing client (July 2013 - Aug 2014) - Generalist programmer working across both the Operations and Development teams - defining DevOps within teams. Strong experience in setting up an environment aimed at a fast feedback and Continuous Delivery.

GenieDB

Senior Software Engineer, GenieDB, London, (Aug 2009 – Apr 2013)

- Implemented an event driven distributed NoSQL database engine (primarily in C++), which plugs into MySQL on the front-end and uses Berkeley DB as it's internal storage engine. The system had challenges unique to distributed software – primarily, concurrent resource accesses and their overhead on performance.
- Software lifecycle management. I was involved in driving the design, implementation and testing cycles. I integrated subsystems and automated builds with a Continuous Integration server to deliver short iterative life-cycles, set up automated test scripts which feed results back into the development cycle. Any regressions were immediately visible and this reduced the time taken to deliver feature requests.

IBM

IBM, Graduate Associate Systems Engineer, (Aug 2007 - Aug2008)

- DB2 database & systems administration.
- Setting up and testing disaster recovery plans, for a multi data centre warehousing solution for a clients in the automotive sector.

Core Skills

- **Programming Language Experience**: Go, Java, Scala, C++, Unix/Linux shell scripting, Python.
- **DevOps / Infrastructure as code tools** : Kubernetes, Terraform, extensive use of GKE & AWS, Kafka, SQS, Elastic Search, Docker
- **Build and Continuous Integration systems**: GitLab, Drone, GoCD, Jenkins, Ant, Make
- **Databases**: MySQL, MongoDB, PostGres, DynamoDB, Redis
- **Operating Systems:** Linux (Debian/Redhat/Centos) and Unix-like operating systems.

Open Source

- Operationalising stacks to automate cloud deployments with terraform. https://github.com/prisamuel
- Contributor to OpenMRS (Open Medical Records Systems), an open source platform for improving the management of health care information. Widely deployed in Africa and India.

Awards

- Recipient of the Edinburgh International Masters Scholarship (2008) presented by the University of Edinburgh in recognition of academic excellence.