

John Olmsted

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Skills

I'm a versatile engineer who has worked most recently on distributed back-end systems in a variety of domains. I aim to be a force multiplier by leading technical design, building strong teams, and collaborating effectively with all kinds of people.

Here's a representative list of the technologies I've worked with:

- **Used recently:** Go, Scala/Finagle, Kubernetes/Helm, Thrift & gRPC, MySQL
- **Used less recently:** Typescript/Node, Ruby/Rails, React/Redux, Scheme, Elixir, Kafka, PostgreSQL

Being a great engineer requires more than pure technical skills, especially at the senior level. Here are some I think are important:

- **Project management:** I have experience leading technical projects from start to finish. I enjoy collaborating with other teams and non-technical coworkers to solve shared problems.
- **Why, not just how:** The best code is code that doesn't have to be written. I prioritize work that will have the highest impact.
- **Collaboration:** Engineers work in teams – I do my best work when I increase the impact of my teammates. I regularly mentor those who can learn from me, and seek out mentorship from those who can teach me.

Experience

Senior Software Engineer II, Credit Karma 2019/06 – present

- Lead engineer on the dev efficiency team. We build tools that speed up development and deployment across the company.
- Building powerful and elegant tools that allow teams to manage their service deployments on Kubernetes clusters.
 - Blue/green deploys, service scaling, job management, health monitoring and more through a slick web UI and CLI.
- I partner with other teams to learn what they need to do their jobs, and get it built.
- I get my hands dirty deploying and debugging our tools across multiple clusters.

Senior Software Engineer, Credit Karma, 2017/03 – 2019/05

- Built a performant, distributed system for selecting, rendering, and sending notifications (email and push notifications).
- My design tripled notification throughput and daily volume, at half the cost.
- Lead engineer within the team: I multiplied the impact of my team members by
 - Spearheading the design of new services,
 - Learning new technologies when needed, and sharing that knowledge with the team,
 - Collaborating with other senior and staff engineers to align company-wide engineering goals.

Software Engineer, Credit Karma, 2015/04 – 2017/03

- Lead engineer for a key user-facing API that provides financial advice.
- Led a complete re-design of our internal member support tools.
- Helped onboard new engineers by teaching classes on our toolset and best practices.

Software Engineer, New Avenue Inc, 2014/04 – 2015/04

- Developed the core features of a project management platform for home construction.
- Designed and implemented RESTful APIs and ETL processes for managing client data.
- Led A/B marketing experiments that tripled our conversion rate. At a small startup, you wear a lot of hats.

Student, Dev Bootcamp, 2014/01 – 2014/03

- A big career switch is easier with a little grease in the wheels. DBC helped turn my programming hobby into a career.

Education

- M.A. history, UC Berkeley 2013
- M.A. medieval studies, University of Toronto 2011
- B.A. history, *summa cum laude*, Carleton College 2009