

John Olmsted

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Skills

At the end of the day, I'm more interested in the problem I'm solving than the tool I'm using to do it. Having said that, here's a representative list of the tools I use:

- **Used recently:** Scala/Finagle, Typescript/Node, Thrift, MySQL
- **Used less recently:** Ruby/Rails, React/Redux, PHP, 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've used scrum, kanban, and XP methodologies.
- **Why, not just how:** The best code is code that doesn't have to be written. I aim to prioritize work that will have the highest impact.
- **Collaboration:** Engineers work in teams. I do my best work when I multiply the impact of my teammates.

Experience

Senior Software Engineer, Credit Karma, 2017/03 – present

- Currently a senior engineer on our notifications platform team.
- Building a highly performant, distributed system for selecting, rendering, and sending emails and push notifications.
- Lead engineer within the team: I multiply 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 provided members with advice on how to improve their credit.
- Helped with 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.

Education

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