

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.

- **Used recently:** Go, Scala/Finagle, Kubernetes/Helm, Thrift & gRPC, MySQL
- **Used less recently:** Typescript/Node, 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 enjoy collaborating with other teams and non-technical coworkers to solve shared problems. I also leave my ego out of it.
- **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. 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

- Twice the power of an ordinary senior software engineer(?)
- Lead engineer on the dev efficiency team, a group of force multipliers building tools that speed up software development across the company.
- Currently building powerful and elegant tools that allow teams to manage their service deployments on a Kubernetes cluster.
 - Blue/green deploys, service scaling, job management, and more through a slick web UI and CLI.

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.
- 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. At a small startup, you wear a lot of hats.

Education

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