

John Olmsted

john@olmsted.io | <https://olmsted.io> | <https://github.com/qsymmachus>

Skills

I'm a versatile engineer who has worked most recently on distributed backend systems. I like working on horizontal teams whose tools impact an entire organization. I am a force multiplier who delivers impactful software, builds strong teams, and collaborates effectively with all kinds of people.

Technologies I've built with:

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

Problems I've solved:

- Built services (both RPC and event driven) that serve **tens of millions of requests** a day.
- Led **complex projects** collaborating across many teams and delivering measurable results.
- Crafted **successful rollout strategies** to confidently replace high-value legacy systems.
- Mentored junior team members to **multiply their impact** and accelerate their growth.

Experience

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

- Lead engineer on a team building tools that accelerate the path to production across the company.
- Building a service that allows teams to define platform workflows and execute them automatically.
- Helped build, optimize, and deploy a distributed system that manages all our service deployments.
 - The system manages thousands of services across +12 Kubernetes clusters.
 - Fronted with a Web UI and CLI that is easy for engineers to use with key safety guardrails.

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

- Designed and built a performant system for selecting, rendering, and sending notifications.
- Crafted a successful, multi-quarter rollout strategy to safely replace our legacy notification system.
 - My new design tripled notification throughput and daily volume, at half the cost.
 - The system reliably drives ~\$50k of daily revenue.

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

- Lead engineer for a key user-facing API that provides financial advice.
- Helped lead a complete re-design of our internal member support tools.
 - Cut the time it takes member support specialists to do their jobs in half.

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.

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

- Successfully made the shift from academia to a career in software development.
- Learned more and faster in three months than I ever have before.

Education

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