

Yao Adzaku

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I'm a Senior Engineer and Product Manager with over 10 years of experience working in startups and more mature companies. Over the years, I've managed teams and products from ideation to launch, and day-to-day business management. I'm an active Open Source contributor, and familiar with most programming languages, web programming, and UNIX system administration. I enjoy hiking, swimming, and exploring new cities when I can.

Experience

TECHNICAL PRODUCT MANAGER, PINELOOP, 2019 - PRESENT

I work with founders, CEOs, and product leaders including writing product and strategy memos to support executive teams on product management, engineering and go-to-market strategy.

- Built integrations, documentation and testing framework for Upvest, a \$20m ventured-funded blockchain finance product. Building in Solidity, decentralized apps, Ethereum smart contracts.
- Enhanced the performance of Voltage, a Bitcoin/Lightning Network payments product. Service was built in Python and AWS Serverless framework.

TECHNICAL LEAD, OCTOPUS INVESTMENTS, 2016 - 2019

I joined UK-based Octopus Investments in the early stages of the firm's product incubation lab, Octopus Choice. My work ranged from core engineering designs to customer-facing components on a lending product with £100m AUM. Technologies used include Google Cloud, Python, MySQL, Docker etc. Helped extend the company's offshore presence in Ghana with more local contractors

CO-FOUNDER & VP OF ENGINEERING, ABAKHI PRODUCT STUDIO, 2013 - 2016

Abakhi product studio developed web and mobile technology for startups and large enterprises. Primary development work involved a mix of Erlang, Elixir, Python, Go and JavaScript. Led business and technology integrations with partner banks (GT Bank, Lagos) and telecom networks (Vodafone, MTN, Airtel). We also launched a restaurant delivery and same-day logistics service

SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER, SAYA MOBILE, 2012 - 2013

Early-hire for this fast-growth startup (Saya Mobile) building mobile messaging service for emerging markets. I helped design, build, operate and maintain a high-availability messaging server using Erlang, Amazon Web Services, Redis and other technologies. Saya was launched at the 2013 TechCrunch Disrupt in San Francisco, and soon after acquired by US-based Kirusa.

Education

University of Cape Coast – 2009 - 2013

University of London, BSc Economics

Skills

- Software Architecture, Distributed Systems, Team Management, Product Management, Data Analysis
- Familiar with most programming languages, web programming, and UNIX system administration.
- Tools: Sketch, Figma, Tableau, MySQL, Excel, Balsamiq Mockups and more as needed.