

Yao Adzaku

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I have over 10 years of professional 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 care about how people work, ethical business practices and putting people first. I enjoy hiking, swimming, and exploring new cities when I can.

Experience

FOUNDER & CEO, 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 venture-funded blockchain finance product. Building in Solidity, decentralized apps, Ethereum smart contracts.

I lead the redesign BrijMoney payment service. I introduced engineering best practices and fixed security loopholes. BrijMoney offers payment integration to FinTechs, Banks, Merchants and Telcos.

TECHNICAL LEAD, OCTOPUS INVESTMENTS, 2016 - 2019

Octopus created a platform that enabled property owners to take loans from retail investors on a digital platform. I joined the team in the early stages, working on core engineering designs to customer-facing components to scale the lending product to £100m AUM.

FOUNDER & CEO, ABAKHI PRODUCT STUDIO, 2013 - 2016

Abakhi Technology worked across industries for clients ranging from small startups to large enterprises, designing and delivering products and services in both the B2C and B2B environments. We provided scrum, project management, functional design, business development and consultancy to Korba, a Ghanaian-based remittance business on their digital product. This involved technology integration with Guarantee Trust bank for VISA payments and telecom networks (Vodafone, MTN, Airtel).

SOFTWARE ENGINEER, SAYA MOBILE, 2012 - 2013

I joined this fast-growth startup (Saya Mobile) to build a mobile messaging service for emerging markets. I helped design, build, operate and maintain a high-availability messaging server (14m users) 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

Skills

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