

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 & PROJECT 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 venture-funded blockchain finance product. Building in Solidity, decentralized apps, Ethereum smart contracts.
- Lead the redesign of BrijMoney, a pan-African payment service, introducing engineering best practices and making the product more secure. BrijMoney offers payment integration to FinTechs, Banks, Merchants and Telcos across the East/West Africa sub-region.

TECHNICAL LEAD, OCTOPUS INVESTMENTS, 2016 - 2019

I was part of an internal incubation lab at UK-based Octopus Investments. My work ranged from core engineering designs to customer-facing components on a lending product with £100m AUM. Helped extend the company's offshore presence in Ghana with more local contractors.

FOUNDER & GENERAL MANAGER, ABAKHI PRODUCT STUDIO, 2013 - 2016

I led a team of designers and software developers at Abakhi to build web and mobile technology for startups and large enterprises, including a mobile payments service. My work also involved business and technology integrations with partner banks and telecom networks such as MTN and Vodafone.

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

University of London, BSc Economics

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.