Yao Adzaku

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I've managed teams and products in startups and mature companies, including operating my own business; this includes building teams and day-to-day business management for performance and growth. I can operate in different contexts solving business problems, and building products. I'm an entrepreneur at heart and care deeply about how things are built and how people work. 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 for Upvest, a $20m ventured-funded blockchain finance product. The integrations included developer SDKs, documentation, and test suites in various Languages (Python, Go, etc).

- 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 and Elixir. 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 B2B logistics service

SENIOR SOFTWARE 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 - 2019, Leave of Absence

Skills

- Team Management, Product Management, Business Development, Product Design, 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.