

# 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. This mix of operational know-how and technical background helps me operate in different contexts solving problems and providing leadership. 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

### **FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER, PINELOOP, 2019 - PRESENT**

Advise early to mid-stage startups on product strategy/management, monetization, engineering and go-to-market strategy. Coordinating directly with sales and clients in organizations around the world.

- \* Advising founders, CEOs, and product leaders; including writing product and strategy memos to support executive teams
- \* Building in crypto and blockchain: Solidity, decentralized apps, Ethereum smart contracts. I recently developed software for Upvest (series A), a crypto/blockchain investment API company.

### **PROGRAMMER / STARTUPS, 2006 - 2018**

Early-hire for this fast-growth startup (Saya Mobile) building instant messaging and SMS service for emerging markets. The product was launched at TechCrunch Disrupt in San Francisco, and soon after exited through an acquisition.

Soon after, I remotely worked with UK-based Octopus Investments as Technical Lead on a lending product with £100m AUM. I joined the firm in the early stage of setting up a product incubation lab (Octopus Choice) and worked on the core product through migration to a micro-services model. I helped Octopus recruit more people from Ghana, and did preliminary work on setting up an offshore extension for the firm in Accra. Left to start a restaurant delivery and logistics business in Lagos, Nigeria.

I recently developed software for Upvest (series A), a crypto/blockchain investment API company; starting in a consulting role building developer tools in various languages to later working on core blockchain services.

## Education

University of Cape Coast – 2009 - 2013

University of London - BSc. Economics (On Leave of Absence)

## Skills

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