

# Sef Kloninger

sefklon@gmail.com  
sef.kloninger.com @sefk  
github.com/sefk

## Highlights

I am a **hands-on engineering/operations leader** who builds meaningful and interesting Internet software. I have experience with distributed systems of thousands of servers, or a single site. I write Python for fun. I've led core engineering and ops groups at Akamai, VMware, Ning, and now Stanford. Although I've managed 140 engineers across three locations, I prefer small teams who move fast. Last summer I lead a team that built and launched an [open-source MOOC platform](#) in eleven weeks. One of my [blog posts](#) hit the top spot of Hacker News. BS Computer Science, Stanford 1993.

## Work Experience

### Stanford Online

Palo Alto, CA

#### Head of Engineering, Open Source Platform

(6/2012-present)

Engineering manager and core developer on [Open edX](#), Stanford's open-source platform for Massive Open On-Line Courses (MOOC's). Negotiated merger with edX; worked with them to open-source their code and move to an open development process. As the strongest technical voice in Stanford Online Education, defined our multi-platform strategy with senior leaders and trustees. Reported to the Vice Provost for Online Learning.

Over Summer 2012 built and launched [Class2Go](#), the first open-source MOOC platform. Ran successfully for 200,000 students until edX merger (April 2013).

- **Engineering Manager:** Line managed small engineering team. Ran agile process with weekly sprints and demos; established code review and releases. Hired three engineers and many students. Set up [GitHub](#), [GitHub Issues](#), [Huboard](#), and Google Docs. Established *just enough* process.
- **Dev/Ops and Release:** architect of the run-time system built on AWS (EC2, S3, RDS, SES), ansible/chef, and celery/SQS. Lived and breathed git. Coordinated all releases. Managed capacity, fixed production issues.
- **Core Engineer:** core app features: queueing, OAuth integration, and operations tools.

### Ning (acquired by Glam Media, Dec 2011)

Palo Alto, CA

#### VP Infrastructure Engineering and Operations

(12/2010-4/2012)

**Operations.** Oversaw the team running a medium-sized platform: 100K sites, 300M requests/day, 60M uniques/month, 240TB of user-generated content. Maintained four nines of availability. Established set of core technical metrics: incidents, availability, and performance. Built a mini-NOC. Defended DDoS attacks by running build vs. buy analysis, then negotiating contract with service provider.

**Infrastructure.** Line managed senior engineers on the core Ning platform: relational and key/value content, blob storage, messaging, service discovery, mail, activity, and API's. ~50 RESTful Java services. Ran project to convert Oracle to sharded MySQL. Improved performance by restructuring JS and CSS and targeted rewrites. Responsible for development and support of the [Ning API](#).

### VMware, Desktop Virtualization

Palo Alto, CA

#### Senior Director, Desktop Engineering

(5/2008-12/2010)

Built products using server and client virtualization to disrupt how corporate Windows desktops are deployed and managed. Grew from managing one group to leading engineering for the Desktop Business Unit: 140 engineers in the US, UK, India, China. Managed managers, directors, and three principal engineers (VMware's most senior technical role).

Delivered major releases that grew Desktop from \$10M to \$100M. Owned development for enterprise desktop: [VMware View](#) for remote virtual desktops, and [ThinApp](#) for Windows application virtualization. Also two personal desktop packaged products: [Workstation](#) on Windows and Linux, and [Fusion](#) on Mac. Technical sponsor of two strategic transactions: acquisition of RTO Software for profile virtualization and OEM of Teradici's PCoIP remote display protocol.

### Akamai Technologies

San Mateo, CA (2007-08)

#### Senior Director, Service Performance (2005-08)

Cambridge, MA (1999-07)

Founded the Service Performance group in Networks & Operations for advanced ops and high-touch customer engagements. Grew organization from six to 35 engineers and architects in US and India.

Improve service reliability by driving bulletproofing and scaling initiatives. Managed Akamai's incident response process. Define and measure core platform quality metrics, presented quarterly to CEO and Chief Scientist. Owned high-touch customer escalations and events, including: 2006 Olympics, March Madness, Microsoft patch Tuesdays, Hulu's launch, and Apple iPhone launch. Designed a unique cache hierarchy setup for long-tail social networking content.

### **Director and Senior Director, Engineering (1999-05)**

Engineering Manager of 20-50 engineers and managers. Led technical hiring during company growth, then managed transitions and motivated teams during staff reductions. Mentor to other managers, senior engineers, and architects. Established processes for development, QA, and release engineering. Oversaw technical integration of two acquired companies.

Hands-on technical leader of Akamai's core technology. Handled many urgent service incidents; one of five crisis managers called in for the big problems.

- Communication infra.
- Load balancing
- Linux kernel
- Security systems
- Coherence protocols
- Operations tools
- HTTP and DNS
- Fault tolerance
- Performance

### **Senior Software Engineer (1999)**

Lead engineer on HTTP content server. Scaled technology and features for rapid pre-IPO growth.

---

### **FarSight Financial Services**

Cambridge, MA (1998-99)

#### **Senior Performance Engineer**

Enhanced performance of a website for retail on-line stock trading. Profiled systems, rewrote critical code paths (C++), and optimized database queries and schemas (Sybase).

---

### **Venturcom**

Cambridge, MA (1996-98)

#### **Principal Software Engineer**

Principal architect, engineer, and team lead of Component Integrator, a tool for customizing and embedding Windows NT and CE. Product bought by Microsoft, later released as the [Windows Embedded Studio](#). Venturcom eventually became Ardenne, acquired by Citrix.

---

### **McKinsey & Company, IT**

Cambridge, MA (1993-96)

#### **Principal Software Engineer**

Led development of client/server human resource system for internal use. Enhanced and optimized custom database replication system (Oracle). Attended week-long training sessions on communication skills, writing, and problem solving.

---

### **Veritas Software**

Santa Clara, CA (1990-93)

#### **Software Engineer (Part-Time)**

Developed and tested Visual Administrator tool suite (C, Motif, Xt).

---

## **Patents**

- Content Delivery Network (CDN) Content Server Request Mechanism With Metadata Framework Support ([US 7,240,100](#))
  - Internet content delivery service with third party cache interface support ([US 7,010,578](#))
  - Method and System For Providing Content Providers With Information About How Their Users Access the Internet ([WO 2002/017139](#))
  - Enterprise Content Delivery Network Having a Central Controller For Coordinating a Set Of Content Servers (pending, [US 2004/0073596](#))
- 

## **Education**

### **Stanford University, B.S. Computer Science, 1993**

Research: "Verification of SCI Cache Coherence Protocol" under Prof. David Dill.