

# DAVID WHEELER

## Principal Architect

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## OBJECTIVE

Open Source Engineer

## PROFILE

A 25-year industry veteran and open source contributor, I create elegant interfaces and tools for software engineers and users. A detail-oriented human, I collaborate on designs, devise integrated architectures, and implement high quality solutions from first principles to deployment. A passionate champion of empathy and care, I strive to create a welcoming, thoughtful, and humane working environment

## SKILLS

### Architecture

Software architecture  
Distributed systems design  
Platform architecture  
API design  
REST API design

### Open Source

[SQL/JSON Path](#) (Go)  
[RFC 9535 JSONPath](#) (Go)  
[PGXN v2 SDKs](#) (Rust)  
[JSONSchema](#) (PostgreSQL)  
[Sqitch](#) (Perl)  
[pgTAP](#) (PostgreSQL)

### Communication

Public speaking  
Technical & essay writing  
Technical specifications  
Architecture diagrams  
Cross-team coordination  
Consensus building

### Expertise

Technology innovation  
Encryption patterns  
Change management  
Software deployment  
Product specification  
Team development

## EXPERIENCE

### Principal Architect

Tembo, 2024–Present

- Initiated [PGXN v2](#), a community-based distributed architecture for publishing, discovering, and packaging PostgreSQL extensions
- Worked with maintainers on [RFCs](#), documentation, and patches to improve PostgreSQL extension packaging and installation
- Designed and developed Rust crates for PGXN v2 tools and services for developing, publishing, and packaging PostgreSQL extensions
- Organized the PostgreSQL Extension Summit at PGConf.dev and PGConf.eu, as well as a series of virtual “mini-summits”
- Led a team to develop foundational documents to establish the mission, vision, and ethical values for the company
- Led the discovery and community networking to build the case for the PostgreSQL Ecosystem Foundation, soon to be formed under PgUS
- Mentored senior engineers and managers on career growth, software design & development, trust, team leadership, and communication

### Staff Engineer

The New York Times, 2021–2023

- Designed and implemented [CipherDoc](#), an encrypted entity storage service in Go, built on JSON Schema, Google Tink, and SQL/JSON Path
- Collaborated with design and product directors to implement an extensible JSON Schema for subscribers
- Maintained internal blog covering project updates and plans, tutorials, deployment and observability, team culture, and daily status updates
- Founded Tech Leadership Book Club, marshaling titles to read and leading weekly discussions amongst senior & staff engineers and managers
- Mentored a senior engineer and a senior designer for a year through the

# DAVID WHEELER

Senior Architect

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## Values

Equality & Diversity  
Privacy & Security  
Empathy & Compassion  
Curiosity & Creativity  
Education & Mentorship  
Leadership & Responsibility  
Opportunity & Commitment  
Focus & Execution  
Collaboration & Community  
Strong Opinions, Loosely Held

## Education

MA, Anthropology, 1996  
University of Virginia

BA, Anthropology, 1993  
California State University

## Community

GitHub  
PGXN  
PostgreSQL  
CPAN  
XOXO Festival  
Rands Leadership

## Tools

Go, Rust, Perl, SQL  
PostgreSQL, Sqitch  
Docker, Kubernetes  
GitOps, Observability  
JSON Schema, SQL/JSON Path  
Jenkins, GitHub Actions, Drone  
Swift, Objective-C  
Git, GitHub, BitBucket  
GitHub Issues, Jira

## Senior Architect

iovation/TransUnion, 2013–2021

- Collaborated with Enterprise Architecture and Global Fraud Solutions to develop road map for platform modernization and cloud transformation
- Founded and chaired Architecture Council empowered to oversee, approve, and provide guidance for company architecture initiatives
- Initiated and led design & Go implementation of highly-scalable encrypted token solution to protect personal data
- Invented attack-resistant encrypted token algorithm to enable equality operations without decryption
- Led expansion of GDPR compliance project to protect personal data
- Conceived and prototyped encrypted identity service in Go requiring end-user credentials to decrypt personal data
- Reinvigorated iOS SDK now deployed to millions of devices globally
- Shepherded creation of dedicated mobile SDK team

## Senior Data Architect

iovation, 2011–2013

- Conceived, implemented, and shipped Sqitch, an open-source database change management app adopted to manage all company RDBMSes
- Designed and deployed highly-available, shared-nothing, multi-data center relational database architecture
- Designed, deployed, and migrated product configuration and reporting data to relational databases

## Co-Founder

Lunar/Theory, 2010–2013

- Co-created, fully-developed, and launched DesignScene for iPad, a visual inspiration app for creative people
- Designed, developed, deployed, and maintained RSS-driven web service for DesignScene

## Founding Associate

PostgreSQL Experts, 2009–2011

- Conceived, raised funding for, implemented, and launched PGXN, the PostgreSQL Extension network, [www.pgxn.org](http://www.pgxn.org)
- Expanded application development and database design services to encompass half the business
- Implemented query and log analysis tools for the “Virtual DBA” product to cut work time in half
- Redesigned full-text search implementation for major online retailer that improved home-page query performance over 95%