Dear Hiring Team,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Lead Software Engineer of Device Experiences role at Humane. With a diverse background spanning software development, hardware integration, and team leadership, I am confident that my unique skill set and unwavering passion for technology make me an excellent candidate for this position.

When I was 17, I had my parents sign me off to join the United States Navy. I served as a Fire Controlman, which doesn't mean fighting fires, but working on the computers that integrated the radar and weapons systems. I maintained the classified Solaris and Red Hat Unix software and hardware, including the cooling systems of these machines. If you've ever seen the movies where people are working in the dark room with brightly lit up screens, that's exactly what my team and I did. We worked on every computer in that room, ensuring they functioned optimally. Additionally, we were responsible for the servers that were connected by fiber optics throughout the entire ship, on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. After the Navy I went back home to Tennessee to study Computer Science at Middle Tennessee State University from the recommendation of one of the contractors that I was mentored by while serving. Before I was finished with my degree, I interned at Caterpillar Financial in Nashville and then got a call from a stranger named Farbood Nivi asking if I would help him as first engineering hire to start up an at home crypto mining hardware solution called Coinmine.

I joined Farb at Coinmine and soon after, David Bellotti joined, who mentored me on everything about shipping software and hardware. Some of the concepts I learned in 2 years were Agile processes, CI/CD, Scaling Infrastructure, Test-Driven Development, an expertise in Python and Django Rest Framework, Docker, Redis, RabbitMQ, Arch Linux & systemd, and somewhere in the middle, Vim. I enjoyed flying to Shenzhen to oversee the fabrication process and deliver the golden OS solution that our small team built. After launch, We pushed over the air updates to thousands of users on mineOS and ran the system for years after we wound down the engineering team due to the economic turmoil of COVID.

After Coinmine, we rejoined and worked with Brian Norgard from Tinder on a TikTok video style dating app called Fun. On this team I did a lot of the same work as from Coinmine, but learned GraphQL, GCP, Firebase and Lambda services, and finally, iOS development with SwiftUI. I took a bigger leadership role as our team grew and helped hire, led the backend and front end team, led stand ups and scrum, mentored others on best practices, and held code reviews. Unfortunately we ran out of funding and we parted ways.

After Fun, I worked with Matty Mo, the most famous artist, and a small team to build a verified NFT minting platform. We collaborated with artists across the world to teach and launch generative art collections. There, I used my Django skills to build a backend and learned React with NextJS with web3 plugins to deliver a great experience to new people joining the crypto web space. I also learned Solidity, Ethereum's main smart contract language, and built and deployed contracts for each of the artists, including Liquid Death's Murder Heads and Porous Walkers Mushroom collection. After the SBF scandal and FTX, we wound down.

I then went to Ford as a Creative Technology Expert in Experience Design, where we built skunk work type projects. There, I built many React, React Native, iOS, and iPad experiences, both in-vehicle and out. I also learned Android, Android Auto and Automotive, how to build a visionOS app, and CarPlay apps. The VisionOS App we had made it to the Dealer meeting, where thousands of dealers and Ford employees tried out our simulation. I also helped lead the Process Improvement Team, which taught and mentored others on Agile.

Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated a hunger for knowledge and a drive to innovate. I have built my own computers since childhood, and recently constructed a Network Attached Storage system using Unraid, hosting various Docker services and a firewall with OPNSense. I am thrilled about the prospect of bringing my diverse skill set, leadership experience, and passion for technology to Humane. I am confident that my ability to adapt to new technologies, mentor team members, and deliver high-quality solutions will contribute to Humane's ongoing success. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further how my experiences and skills can benefit Humane. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of joining your talented team and making a positive impact at Humane.

Sincerely,
Adam Mischke / mischke@proton.me
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