

AJ Danelz

Cloud-Native | Full-Stack Dev | Developer & OSS Advocate

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Summary

Full-Stack engineer and Golang enthusiast with cloud-native, distributed systems expertise. Experienced in building scalable applications, event-driven microservices, and advocating for developer tools and frameworks. Flexible with a proven ability to collaborate globally across technical and non-technical teams. Self-motivated and empathetic, focusing on improving the developer experience and fostering open-source communities.

Core Competencies

- **Languages & Frameworks:** Golang, Java, Spring Boot, Vue.js, React, TypeScript, Node.js
- **Cloud & Infrastructure:** Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, AWS, Google Cloud
- **Event Streaming & Messaging:** Kafka, gRPC, Protobuf, RabbitMQ
- **Database Technologies:** PostgreSQL, Redis, ElasticSearch, Google Cloud API
- **DevOps & CI/CD:** Git, Jenkins, CircleCI, Terraform, AWS CDK, Helm
- **Developer Advocacy & Community:** Technical Content Creation, Open-Source Maintenance, Public Speaking, Event Management

- **Technical Leadership:** Mentoring, People Management, Thought Leadership, Vision & Goal planning, Metric & KPI reporting

Professional Experience

Head of Developer Experience

Aklivity | Mar 2023 - Nov 2024

Aklivity is an early-stage startup that enables event-driven solutions by proxying multiple API protocols onto Apache Kafka. I created and executed the vision for all aspects of community engagement and product documentation.

- Led the creation of a new, streamlined developer onboarding experience for the [Zilla project](#), including documentation, examples repositories, and interactive demos.
- Enhanced community engagement through regular updates, feature announcements, and demo walkthroughs.
- Acted as the first point of contact for community troubleshooting and feedback, improving product quality based on user input.
- Represented the company at developer conferences and hackathons, creating product demos and handling booth responsibilities.

OSS Maintainer

Independent | Jan 2019 - Present

- [Gohlay](#): Creator of an open-source CLI tool written in Golang that interacts with Kafka to deliver scheduled messages. The tool is lightweight, scalable, and operates without external data dependencies.
- [vue-pdf](#): Maintainer of a Vue.js library for rendering individual PDF pages as markup elements.
- [awesome-data-engineering](#): Maintain the list, ensuring it remains up-to-date with the latest tools and technologies.

Head of Developer Relations

WSO2 | Jan 2022 - Mar 2023

- Led the Developer Relations team, building a thriving community around WSO2's open-source and SaaS offerings, including the Ballerina programming language.
- Spearheaded the creation of the [Ballerina Exercism.io track](#), improving language education and adoption.
- Coordinated global events, including hackathons and conferences.
- Spoke on technical topics at industry events.
- Collaborated with product teams and technical writers to enhance documentation and user experience across WSO2 products.

Lead Solutions Engineer

WSO2 | Feb 2021 - Jan 2022

- Supported sales teams in driving the adoption of WSO2 products by providing technical consultations and solutions.
- Secured the first customer for the [Asgardeo SaaS platform](#).
- Authored an opinion article on [identity management and tech debt](#).

Senior Full Stack Developer

BMW - Apps and Services | Feb 2020 - Feb 2021

- Contributed to the development of [BMW Charge Forward](#), a platform optimizing electric vehicle charging through real-time energy data.
- Built backend services using Node.js and NestJS, integrating with AWS services (Lambda, SQS, Kinesis) to handle streams of vehicle data.

Senior Enterprise Application Engineer

AFS Logistics | 2018 - Feb 2020

- Led development of a **Transportation Management System** using microservices architecture with Spring Boot, Golang, Kafka, Redis, PostgreSQL, and Kubernetes.
- **Transportation Management System**: A high-performance system with microservices deployed using Kubernetes and Helm. Key components included an A Rating System, a Document Manager, and a scalable Delayed Message Delivery service.
- Designed and implemented a **Delayed Message Delivery Service** that scaled efficiently using Kafka and Redis.

Full Stack Mentor

Thinkful Inc | 2018 - 2020

- Mentored students in React.js and web design patterns, helping them overcome development hurdles and deepening their understanding of full-stack web development.

Enterprise Application Engineer

UberFreight | 2012 - 2018

- I maintained legacy applications, worked on improvements and new features of existing products like **Real-time Search**, and architected new applications like the **Dynamic EDI Parser**.
- **Real-time Search**: Added an Elasticsearch API on top of a monolithic Groovy on Grails, PostgreSQL, and Hibernate ORM application, reducing processing load and improving user-built query latency.
- **Dynamic EDI Parser**: Developed an algorithm to parse EDI files dynamically into object formats (XML, JSON) for easier integration and extensibility.

Public Contributions

- [Product Demos on GitHub](#)
- [Product Documentation](#)
- [Community Updates and Blog Posts](#)
- [Ballerina Exercism.io Track](#)

Education

B.S. in Computer Science (Cum Laude) Southern Wesleyan University

Additional Information

- **Awards:** Eagle Scout with Silver Palm
- **Research:** Path Planning using Dijkstra and Lightning Enhancement