

Daniel Conrad

Senior Engineering Leader

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I'm a senior technologist with a passion for empowering software engineers, and bringing order and predictability to chaotic environments. I like to work with empathetic and supportive teams of techies that build elegant, impactful technology. I'm a design enthusiast, volunteer youth teacher, proud father, and constantly evolving humanist.

Recent Technology

Languages	Ruby, Rails, Python, Django, JavaScript, Node.js, React, Golang, Bash
Databases	PostgreSQL, Neo4j, Elasticsearch, Redis
Protocols	GraphQL, JSONApi, OAuth, SAML 2, JSON Schema
Infrastructure	Docker, Terraform, AWS (EC2, ECS, ECR, S3, SNS, SQS, Fargate, etc)
Architecture	Domain Driven Design, Serverless, Microservices, Message Buses, DAGs, Event Streams
Testing	Cypress, K6, Selenium, Cucumber, Capybara
Services	Auth0, Sumologic, DataDog, OpsGenie, Jira, Confluence, Miro

Experience

Director of Engineering · Ascent Technologies · *Apr 2019 - Present*

See above 'Recent Tech' for technologies used

- Built a culture of trust, support, camaraderie, engagement, and excellence.
- Hired, trained, coached, and managed dozens of employees in engineering, QA, DevOps, and IT teams.
- Oversaw agile discovery and delivery across the entire organization.
- Personally coded in all areas throughout tenure to enhance understanding and empathy for other developers.
- Continually improved engineering best practices through public forums and one-on-one interactions.
- Wrote dozens of detailed technical project plans to improve feature rollout.
- Built out a robust suite of integrated internal tools to manage the company's processes and proprietary data.
- Delivered a third-party authentication and authorization platform across all applications.
- Reduced build time for our core data product from 300+ hours to 5 hours.
- Constructed a mature web scraping application to collect daily data from thousands of websites.
- Established a CI/CD pipeline and process, improving cycle time from ~2 weeks to ~2 days.
- Improved system reliability by introducing modern logging (Sumologic) and monitoring (DataDog) tools.
- Migrated several Heroku applications to AWS.
- Dockerized all local development, bringing new employee onboarding down to minutes per application.
- Developed vendor relationships, yearly budgeting, and technical roadmaps.

Associate Board Director, Volunteer · We All Code · *Feb 2018 - Dec 2021*

Python, Django, Lua, NodeMCU, PostgreSQL, MQTT

- Managed several operational concerns including fundraising, outreach, and analytics.
- Taught HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Python to groups of children between the ages of 7 and 17.
- Built out a fleet of custom-designed robots from scratch for our robotics course (hardware, firmware, OTA updates, WiFi captive portal and more using Lua, Python, MQTT)
- Lead an effort to completely rebrand the company including overhauling a well-established Django website.

Sr. Software Engineer · WyzAnt · Jan 2018 - Apr 2019

Ruby, Rails, Golang, PostgreSQL, T-SQL, GraphQL, Swagger, Vue.js, Nginx

- Established and began delivery on a phased multi-year migration away from T-SQL.
- Built, launched, and owned the primary search service, written in Golang, end-to-end.
- Performed multiple data science analyses and migrations for SEO related efforts.
- Modernized multiple applications by instating CI/CD pipeline using blue/green deploys.
- Hosted multiple extracurricular events, including weekend classes with We All Code.

Sr. Software Engineer · ReviewTrackers · Feb 2017 - Dec 2017

React, Node.js, Golang, Ruby, Python, RabbitMQ, PostgreSQL

- Implemented multiple full-stack features and integrations including OAuth, SMS Requests.
- Introduced continuous deployments and feature flagging.
- Launched the company's first iOS and Android app using React Native.

Sr. Software Engineer / Team Lead · Groupon Inc · Apr 2014 - Feb 2017

Node.js, Backbone.js, CoffeeScript, HTML5, CSS3, Splunk

- Reduced page load times by more than 40% for millions of users across the globe.
- Lead a team of engineers that owned the globally deployed fullstack "Homepage and Search" application.
- Dramatically improved team velocity, doubling over the course of three months.
- Influenced culture by performing dozens of tech interviews and formally mentoring multiple engineers.

Swag Award Winner, Q1 2016 – An award given to the most dedicated, effective, and influential product developer.

Software Developer · AlphaMetrix · Dec 2009 - Dec 2012

ASP.NET, C#, T-SQL, JS, CSS3, WordPress, Active Directory, Microsoft Dynamics CRM 4.

- Built a suite of 40 configuration-driven UI components based on Telerik RadControls.
- Introduced Comet (early HTTP Streaming) to reduce perceived user load time.
- Optimized dozens of T-SQL stored procedures, allowing for sub-second page load times.
- Managed a set of internal tooling websites built on WordPress integrated with Microsoft authentication.
- Rolled out six major versions of our company marketing website.

Engineer, Owner · Snowpiper Solutions · Jul 2007 - Jun 2011

JS, XHTML/HTML 4.1, CSS3, WordPress, PHP, ActionScript, Flash

- Built and delivered more than 20 custom marketing websites for clients across the Midwest.
- Created a deeply interactive website for Governor Quinn of Illinois to promote high-speed rail.
- Supported customers through training and periodic maintenance.
- Hired and managed subcontractors in response to increased demand.

Education

The Internet · Circa 1997 - Present

Giving credit where credit is due.

University of Illinois at Chicago · Aug 2005 - Jun 2010

College of Business Administration