

Michael Orion Jackson

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Summary

I am a software engineer with two decades of professional experience combining direct technical contribution with people leadership and project management experience. I am adept at working in high-scale environments on complex problem domains and turning ideas into shipped software. My primary focus as an engineer has been on backend/infrastructure development.

Key Technical Skills

Java, PHP, Go, Python, Kotlin, C, SQL and NoSQL data stores, backend API and scalable system design, Linux, AWS/Cloud

Recent Experience

Yahoo!

Senior Software Engineer – Nov 2022 – July 2025, Remote US/UK

- I joined Yahoo! Sports as a senior software engineer in the backend Fantasy Sports team. I worked with high-scale (100k+ rps/iM+ iops at peak) services primarily written in Java and PHP (some work in Go, Kotlin, and Perl as well), in addition to being heavily involved in performance tuning and benchmarking of AWS solutions vs. our existing on-prem architecture as part of the Yahoo!-wide cloud transformation effort.
 - Modernized central fantasy draft service from JDK 8 to 17, improving CPU and memory performance. This was a significant modernization project given the size and criticality of the service as well as the number of infrastructural changes involved outside of the code itself.
 - Conducted performance analysis and comparison to assist the group-wide shift to AWS, focusing on storage solutions. This involved both benchmarking and deep analysis (to the kernel level in some cases) of observed anomalous data.
 - Numerous smaller projects on the platform and core app backend squads generally in the theme of feature engineering, site reliability, CI/CD and packaging improvements to support the group as a whole, e.g. migrating vendor data ingestion from perl to Kotlin, enhancing generative AI draft analysis and recaps (via gpt api).

Carro

Senior Software Engineer – Oct 2021 – Sept 2022, Remote US

- Carro (getcarro.com) was an ecommerce & marketing tech startup. I joined as a senior software engineer on the backend team and shipped a number of platform services supporting our growth (Java, Spring Boot, GraphQL, gRPC, Postgres, Kubernetes, AWS, and a bit of Python).
 - Taxonomy service - worked with data science team to operationalize an ML autoclassifier for products being offered on the Carro marketplace (assigning them to categories in our directory), including designing and building a web application our human staff used for verification steps in the assignment process.
 - Shopify webhook management service - designed and built a service to centralize management of Shopify webhooks to replace a number of ad hoc integrations across the suite of Carro applications.

Oracle (Oracle Cloud Infrastructure)

Principal Site Reliability Developer – Dec 2019 – Oct 2021, Seattle

- After a re-org, I decided to switch hats to an individual contributor role as a principal software engineer embedded in a new SRE team for OCI's planet-scale object storage offering. (Terraform, Java, Python, a bit of Go, Docker, et al.)
 - Architected/led unified ops dashboard project for object storage
 - OCI-side lead for migrating petabyte-scale pre-OCI object storage team onto OCI infrastructure
 - Assisted with org-wide push to adopt Terraform for deployment and regional service bring-up

Software Development Manager – Sep 2016 – Dec 2019, Seattle

- I led “two pizza”-sized agile teams developing custom operations tooling. My time was split between managerial work (planning, hiring, performance management, career development for technical staff) and direct technical contribution (code and design reviews, service development (Java, Kotlin, Dropwizard, Oracle, Redis), and DevOps work (Docker, Linux, etc.)).
 - Mimir - a unified query interface / search engine across multiple different resource APIs and data sources. Replaced manual cross-correlation work required to derive information like “find all A in resource B with ties to X in resource Y” as the resource information was previously siloed in disparate APIs.
 - Single Pane - a unified roll-up view for all incident management systems
 - Telemetry Notifier - a fan-out event-driven system that responds to alerts by cutting Jira tickets, creating PagerDuty pages, and/or sending notice emails depending on alert severity, driving all incident alerting traffic at OCI.

SmartBear

Software Engineering Team Lead – Oct 2013 – Sep 2016, Austin

- SmartBear is a developer productivity tools company; I was the engineering product owner for their Collaborator product, an enterprise code and document review system. Technical skills used: Java, MySQL/ Oracle/MSSQL, several different open source and proprietary version control systems, Jenkins, Linux, AWS.
 - Grew and led a distributed team (12 staff, direct and dotted line reports included) that continued shipping regular maintenance and feature updates through a time of transition following a near-total reduction in force in early 2014 (Collab 8.4-10.0, twenty-one releases), driving \$8M/yr in recurring revenue.
 - Partnered closely with sales, marketing, and support to help drive product development (e.g. collaborating with business product owner, sales and marketing on feature roadmap, support on issue prioritization).
 - Led an initiative to expand the customer-facing API and open up the product to greater user customization and external integration (the top request from sales / marketing at the time).
 - Tuned our CICD pipeline to more efficiently use AWS build instances, driving a 45% cost reduction in our monthly AWS spend.

Prior Experience

Details available on request (OmniTI, The New York Times, Credit Suisse, Pegasus, Dun & Bradstreet / Hoover's, etc.)

Education

The University of Texas at Austin

BSc Chemistry, electives in business and computer science

Post-baccalaureate Computer Science coursework

4.0 GPA across seven undergrad CS courses (UMBC, Oregon State). Favorite course: compiler design.

Visa Status

I am a US citizen currently residing in the United Kingdom. I hold the right to work via a spousal visa, which we plan to renew in Q4 2025. I am happy to provide a share code upon request.