

Nikita Kramar

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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Professional Statement

Senior Software Engineer with a proven track record of transforming experimental Proof of Concepts into scalable, production-ready systems. Deep expertise spanning core software engineering, cloud deployment, and the integration of modern machine learning models. Adept at seeing the big picture to design architectures that balance rapid innovation with long-term operational stability and maintainability.

Experience

VIZIO (Now Walmart)

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Remote

October 2024 – Present

- **AI Research & Development:** Engineered a groundbreaking semantic search system using **AWS Bedrock** embedding models and **AWS OpenSearch** (Vector Store) to aggregate movie metadata, projected to save **\$6,000/month**.
- **Enterprise Search & RAG:** Architected a Proof-of-Concept (POC) **RAG system** using **Amazon Kendra** and **SageMaker AI** to ingest the entire corporate **Confluence** knowledge base. Developed a specialized interface for LLMs to query internal documentation, providing a technical blueprint for AI-driven information retrieval.
- **Agentic Workflows:** Developed a multi-agent orchestrator and established comprehensive **Cline rules** for AI agents, significantly improving developer velocity and internal efficiency.
- **Infrastructure Modernization:** Spearheaded the transition of legacy V1 services from Windows Server on EC2 to a containerized V2 architecture using **Terraform**, **AWS ECS Fargate**, **RabbitMQ**, and **Redis**.
- **DevOps & CI/CD:** Reimplemented a custom CI/CD publishing tool followed by a transition to industry-standard tooling, reducing deployment times **15x** and eliminating manual configuration and service deployment errors.
- **Data Engineering:** Direct a high-throughput metadata pipeline for **700+ integrators** (including Amazon, Disney, and Gracenote), managing a **30B+ row SQL Server** environment and orchestrating a migration to Enterprise edition to enable advanced partitioning and resource use.
- **Cost Optimization:** Right-sized over-provisioned infrastructure and optimized SQL licensing, resulting in **\$200,000/year** in direct operational savings.
- **Security:** Designed and deployed a custom **OAuth2 Authentication Service** as an AWS Lambda, implementing a secure callback-hook architecture for integration with **Microsoft Azure AD**.
- **Leadership:** Lead technical interviews for **Senior-level candidates**, resulting in 2 successful hires, and serve as a technical evangelist by translating conference insights into actionable team strategies.

Firefly Events

FOUNDING SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Remote

August 2023 - January 2026

- **Backend engineering:** Lead the development of a scalable application, tackling the complexity of processing thousands of events daily from multiple integrators with varying data models. **Architect a Docker-based microservices environment** from the project's inception, ensuring seamless scalability and containerized efficiency. Advocate for well-maintained dependency injection and structured business logic, transitioning the team from a "first to market" mindset to one focused on long-term code quality and maintainability.
- **REST:** Design and implement RESTful endpoints, ensuring seamless communication and data exchange within the application.
- **3rd party integrations:** Successfully integrate with over a **dozen APIs using both REST and GraphQL protocols**, enhancing the app's functionality and connectivity.
- **MongoDB:** Engineer a MongoDB datastore to handle over **8,000 daily events**, optimizing index structures to reduce query times for time-bound and integrator-specific data retrieval, significantly boosting system performance and scalability.
- **GCP Auth:** Implement secure OAuth2 and Firebase authentication, fortifying the app's user authentication mechanisms.
- **DevOps & CI/CD:** Establish a **comprehensive DevOps pipeline** by integrating Vault for secure secrets management and automating continuous integration and deployment with GitHub Actions. This pipeline optimizes software delivery, eliminates deployment errors by ensuring correct branch deployments, and frees up developer time for more critical tasks, enhancing overall productivity and security.

Paylocity

Remote

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER (PREVIOUS ROLES: ASSOCIATE SOFTWARE ENGINEER, SOFTWARE ENGINEER)

May 2020 - October 2024

- **.NET:** Oversee the design and implementation of advanced security features across two critical projects, including Workflow Delegation Security, **utilized over 1.7 million times monthly**. Address significant technical debt and complex codebases, implementing 6,000+ lines of security code across 148 files. Introduce pair programming practices, fostering enhanced team collaboration and consistently delivering high-quality outcomes on aggressive timelines.
- **Serverless Architecture:** Developed event-driven microservices using AWS Lambda and SQS to decouple complex workflows. Integrated DynamoDB for high-speed NoSQL data access and S3 for resilient storage, optimizing the system for high availability and fault tolerance.
- **Recruiting:** Drive the recruitment and onboarding of interns and associate-level employees, **conducting over 10 interviews annually and achieving successful hires**. Mentor junior team members, including summer interns, accelerating their professional development and fostering a skilled and diverse team through thorough candidate evaluation and ongoing guidance.
- **Mentorship:** Provide strategic mentorship to junior team members, offering support in overcoming complex technical challenges, sharing industry insights, and promoting best practices; **resulting in their successful promotions**. Drive significant improvements in performance and development, empowering team members to take on greater responsibilities and contribute to team goals.
- **Incident Command:** As Incident Commander, manage the resolution of SEV-1 incidents affecting tens to hundreds of thousands of users during full system outages. Coordinate cross-functional teams, direct rapid response efforts, and implement effective strategies to restore system stability. Enhance the organization's operational resilience by **resolving 41 PagerDuty incidents, including four SEV-1s, with an MTTA of just 2 minutes**, successfully mitigating potential disruptions and reinforcing system reliability.
- **SQL Index Optimizations:** Execute strategic SQL index optimizations on large tables (160+M rows), **improving database performance and query efficiency by approximately 50%**. Utilize SolarWinds to monitor and analyze system performance, proactively identifying and resolving potential bottlenecks to ensure optimal operations.
- **Datadog RUM and Logging:** Implement and configure Datadog Real User Monitoring (RUM) for in-depth insights into user interactions and experiences. Use Datadog logging to capture and analyze system logs, enabling proactive issue identification and resolution, and ensuring robust system monitoring and observability.
- **Testing:** Develop the **Cypress testing framework** for multiple existing UI and API projects, including a CI/CD pipeline in TeamCity.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Boise, ID

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAGNA CUM LAUDE

May 2021

- Relevant coursework: Social Media Mining (graduate), Machine Learning (graduate), Natural Language Processing, Algorithms, Parallel Computing, Software Engineering, Programming Languages, Compilers, Operating Systems.
- ML/NLP Research: Contributed to cutting-edge research with Dr. Kennington as part of the CoNLL Shared Task, achieving a final f-score of 0.72.

Proposal Writing & Evaluation Experience Academy | Mission Concept Academy

Remote

NASA L'SPACE ACADEMY

January 2020 - August 2020

- Directed the reexamination of NASA's Technology Taxonomy, developing a technical research proposal with potential for a \$10k grant and gaining valuable insights from NASA scientists and engineers.
- Deputy Project Manager, Team LUNA: Led the development of an 80-page Preliminary Design Review document for a mission aimed at verifying and characterizing lunar polar ice deposits.

Skills

AI & Machine Learning

Languages

Technologies

Databases

Natural languages

LLM Orchestration (LangGraph, LangChain), RAG, Vector Databases (AWS OpenSearch), AWS Bedrock, Model Context Protocol (MCP), Embedding Models, Diffusion Models, LoRAs
C#, Python, Java, Typescript, Node.js, C, CUDA, Solidity, ARM assembly
Terraform, AWS (ECS, Fargate, Lambda), K8s, Docker, Git, GCP, RabbitMQ, Redis, TeamCity, Octopus, Datadog, OpenTelemetry (oTel), Grafana, Cypress, JMeter, Azure AD
SQL Server (Standard/Enterprise), PostgreSQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, S3, Redis, Neo4j, Cassandra
Russian: Native, Ukrainian: Intermediate, Chinese: Elementary