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mark christian

Profile

Humane software engineering advocate. Full stack engineer with a focus on infrastructure, scalability, and maintainability. Advocate for the compounding power of incremental improvements over time. Experienced technical lead with proven track record in creating cross-organizational teams and leading them through challenging projects.

Skills

- TypeScript, Python, Rust
- Bazel, CI/CD, & deploy tooling
- WebAssembly interoperability
- WebSockets & real-time systems
- Interviewing
- Onboarding
- Mentorship
- Empowerment
- Performance profiling
- Unit & integration testing
- Refactoring at scale
- Incident management

Experience

Principal Engineer, Zipline

2023-

Autonomous engineer-at-large in a growing drone logistics company. Establishing programs (design review, software development lifecycle), mentoring engineers, and getting ahead of scalability concerns. Introduced a monorepo to tame a large set of disparate services, and bringing industry best practices around development, review, and release.

Engineer in Residence, Sutter Hill Ventures

2021-2022

Web-focused research & development. Explored new technologies and frameworks, built prototypes, assisted recruiting team, and worked with portfolio companies.

Principal Engineer, Slack

2014-2020

As an early engineer, worked on a variety of product features (@here, Posts, Threads, Platform) before focusing on cross-functional performance and reliability efforts. Created and managed a frontend-focused infrastructure team to own the build pipeline and overall architecture and structure of the frontend codebase while continuing engineering work.

Ultimately designed a replacement desktop Slack client to meet ever-increasing scale and reliability needs. Interfaced with executives and led 50+ engineers to incrementally rebuild the application from the ground up without blocking ongoing feature development.

Sat on technical steering committees, stewarded internal tooling, co-designed the frontend interview panel and coding exercises, contributed to developer onboarding, and participated in mentorship programs. Interfaced with sales, customer support, and external technical contacts for various large customers. Co-authored 20+ patent disclosures.

Staff Engineer, Twitter

2010-2014

Technical lead on the web team's migration from Ruby to Scala: co-designed the framework used to build the site, operationalized early prototypes, implemented deploy and monitoring processes, and led training sessions to onboard the rest of the web team.

Education

Bachelor of Computer Science, Dalhousie University; Halifax, Canada

2006