

Adam Fields

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I have 25+ years of experience as a human full stack architect/engineer with a primary focus on backend and systems implementation. I participate in and lead development, strategy, architecture, client & vendor relations, project management in a variety of roles as needed. I have some business development and management experience including P&L responsibility. I have worked in several key vertical markets including social software/weblogs/twitter, e-commerce, non-profit, marketing, publishing, and education.

Professional Experience

My full list of professional experience came out to 9 pages. You don't want to read that. For over ten years I have primarily focused on building Graphika, which has grown into a respected name in the social media analysis space. In my career, I've started a few companies, worked for a few companies, and been a consultant at a bunch of others. If what I've included here isn't enough for you and you want to hear more, let's talk!

Graphika Technologies, Inc. (formerly Morningside Analytics, 2008-Present)

Co-Founder, Chief Engineer for Scaling & Infrastructure

As senior technical co-founder, I oversaw technical and process infrastructure for over a decade in a number of roles, helping to organically grow the company from zero employees to over 60, and address all challenges in the process including data processing of millions of tweets per day, supporting custom analytics pipelines, API development, and application/usability design. I have performed many functions over the years including technical architecture, IT support, security, leadership, and developer and employee relations. I have played an active role in championing increased communication and transparency across the entire organization, including introduction of skiplevel 1:1s and regular leadership roundtables.

Summary of Skills and Experience

- Technical leadership and business development for advanced web based and supporting backend/data processing systems with workflow, personalization, data storage, and content management across various enterprise development platforms and languages.
- Expert understanding of real-world software delivery and content management issues, focusing on scaling, real-world usability, personalization, caching, web optimization, and privacy.
- Proven success managing teams of developers through on-time and exposure-managed project completion.
- Experience with implementing green field infrastructure management from development to production with Terraform, Ansible, Packer, Docker, and related technologies.

I bring leadership in all phases of the software development lifecycle, including aggressive requirements analysis, technical architecture and specification (design and writing), team leading, project management, technical communication, and scalability/performance analysis.

- Career highlights for architecting, deploying, managing, and troubleshooting large scale web and distributed applications have included content management systems used by 1500+ worldwide editors, a media portal with 100,000+ registered users serving 25GB+ traffic per day (in 2004), an e-commerce site with \$4 million+ in monthly revenue, and a distributed web/twitter spidering and parsing architecture handling billions of pages across terabytes of distributed storage with document indexing.
- Expertise in general performance optimization and enterprise scaling. Experience with many development stacks over the years including Ruby/Rails, Python, MongoDB, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, AWS data storage (DynamoDB, S3, OpenSearch, etc..). Experience with search proxies, HA/replication/sharding, queue servers, and memcached. Strong experience with queue-based processing infrastructures and handling scheduling/reporting issues.
- Broad experience with free and open source technologies and licensing issues, as well as commercial/closed source offerings.
- Deep experience with elegant API design and application design utilizing internal APIs.
- Repeated successes with constructing highly usable tools that fit actual needs and remain in production for years after implementation. That “temporary fix” that’s still chugging away doing what it needs to 10 years later with no supervision? I did that.
- Comfort with data storage design and implementation. Recently I tend to favor S3/Athena and data processing pipelines over relational databases, but this depends on specific data requirements.
- Willingness to follow or set methodology for a development team, as needed. Comfort with waterfall, spiral, and agile (XP, scrum, etc...) development methodologies with various levels of formality.
- Content management experience predating the existence of the formal CMS market (designing and implementing completely custom CMS deployments), plus experience with enterprise CMS. I wrote the sample application that shipped with Vignette V5.
- Extensive experience with AWS including greenfield EC2/VPC, ECS, SQS, and S3 usage and administration, as well as AWS cost reduction and mystery solving.
- Hands-on experience with Unix/OS X system administration, network topology design and configuration, load balancing configurations, and protocol-level application and network interaction design. Fluent and comfortable with mixed-OS environments, but I prefer not to work with Windows if possible.
- I have worked with tiny startups and huge companies, including notable projects for The National Cancer Institute, iWon.com, John Wiley & Sons, Fannie Mae, The Open Society Institute, Atkins Nutritionals, Yahoo!, and GOOD Magazine.

I am an accomplished semi-amateur photographer and chef. I naturally gravitate to and cultivate online communities. I regularly blog about what I’m cooking and manage/lead several active cooking communities. I started and admin a Facebook sous vide group with over 10k members.

Education

Master of Science (Computer Science), Columbia University, SEAS, 1997

Bachelor of Arts, Columbia University, Columbia College, 1996

Selected Links

- <https://fields.medium.com/my-principles-of-work-263c7d784d28> (*Principles of Work*)
- <https://www.adamfields.com> (*Work/Personal*)
- <https://www.counter.kitchen> (*Food Writing*)
- <https://fields.medium.com> (*Assorted Recent Writing*)