Dave Yarwood

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer - *GovSpend*   Oct 2023 - Present
https://govspend.com

- Guided company-wide LLM adoption by researching and comparing models for cost and quality, and implemented an optimized prompt engineering strategy to generate high-quality summaries for over 1 million meetings.
- Reduced infrastructure costs by 36% through targeted database optimizations.
- Rapidly developed a semantic search proof-of-concept using Voyage.AI and Elasticsearch, leveraging LLM-assisted development to quickly showcase the feature's value and drive company excitement to integrate semantic search into the product.
- Drove significant data platform improvements by modernizing data pipelines, resolving critical performance bottlenecks, and leading the migration to Temporal Cloud.
- Elevated engineering standards by establishing formal processes for both technical design (RFCs) and deployments, each supported by shared Notion templates.

Senior Software Engineer - *Kevel (formerly Adzerk)*   Nov 2014 - Sep 2023
https://kevel.com

- Key engineer during growth from 10 to 150+ employees; implemented and maintained high-performance ad engines and APIs, and oversaw the evolution of the campaign management UI.
- Won high-profile enterprise customers by overhauling the UI authentication system to support SSO and improve security.
- Improved application security by implementing a Content Security Policy, raising the company's Mozilla Observatory score from an F to an A.
- Led technical design processes, mentored dozens of engineers, and streamlined feature delivery with CI/CD pipelines.

Disability Examiner / ODAR Specialist - *NC Disability Determination Services*   Aug 2008 - Nov 2014

- Determined eligibility for Social Security disability by analyzing complex medical and vocational records, managing a demanding caseload while serving as the sole liaison for federal hearings offices.

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill   2004 - 2008
Bachelor's degree - Music Composition and Bassoon Performance

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PROJECTS

Alda
A text-based programming language for music notation, MIDI production, and generative music.   2012 - present

- https://github.com/alda-lang/alda
- Popular open-source project (5,000+ GitHub stars), featured on HackerNews
- Presented at international conferences, including ICFP, Compose Conference, and Strange Loop

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SKILLS

Technical design: Distributed architecture, Domain-Driven Design, SDLC, testing approaches

People: Onboarding, leading, mentoring, documentation, creative problem solving, planning and prioritization, collaboration with stakeholders

AI: Prompt engineering, semantic search, Langchain, Langfuse, LLM-assisted development

Backend: Temporal, Go, TypeScript, Node.js, Clojure, Java, C#, REST APIs

Frontend: TypeScript, React, JavaScript, XState, UX design, SSO, SAML, OIDC, ClojureScript

Databases: Relational databases (SQL Server, PostgreSQL), NoSQL / document databases (MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Redis, DynamoDB)

DevOps: Linux, Bash, Git, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Datadog, monitoring, logging, telemetry, observability, continuous integration & delivery (CI/CD), standards compliance

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