John Gillis
Senior Staff Software Engineer

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Education   May 2018
University of Missouri
B.S. in Computer Engineering

Work Experience

Senior Staff Software Engineer, Meta	**Aug 2025 – Present**
Staff Software Engineer, Meta	**Aug 2023 – Aug 2025**
Senior Software Engineer, Meta	**Jun 2021 – Aug 2023**

- Designed and built platform to sync 1M+ badge-in events per day with p99 latency under 1min across 400+ buildings using Hack, Python, Scribe, Async jobs, and persistent TW jobs
- Drove discovery, alignment, and execution among 4 technical and 6 business operations teams on simplifying access request flows across 4 core tools, saving $2M annually
- Organized multiple internal conferences, each attended by 400+ engineers, each with 10+ talks and labs across 3 global locations, recruiting internal and external guest speakers
- Unified incident response and review practices across a 700-engineer org via parallel work streams, mobilizing local senior engineers, and executing on goals with CIO visibility

Senior Software Engineer, Target	**Apr 2020 – May 2021**
Software Engineer, Target	**July 2018 – Apr 2020**

- Optimized stateful API to handle 45k TPS with a p99 below 500ms while performing 176k TPS outgoing to internal integrations by studying its flame graphs and metrics to eliminate hotspots such as reflective validators and NAT servers bottlenecking requests
- Developed unified checkout platform to handle over $92B/yr of in-store and online sales using Kotlin and Ratpack to create reactive microservices running on the edge and in the cloud
- Designed and implemented Cassandra Java driver code and Kubernetes operator scripts that automatically recover from corrupted states increasing reliability of the 1800+ edge clusters
- Built Cassandra-backed Spring Boot services for 90m member loyalty program to place balance holds and Storm topologies to process 8m fulfilled transactions per day from Kafka

CTO and Co-Founder, Recordly, Inc.	**Oct 2015 – July 2018**

- Led development and fundraising for the mobile transcription app for journalists

Researcher, VIMAN Lab, University of Missouri	**Jun 2014 – Dec 2016**

- Published 6 papers on post-disaster mobile cloud computing with over 75 citations

Skills

Reactive Backend	Hack, Kotlin, Ratpack, Java, Spring Boot, Micronaut
Database	Cassandra (NoSQL), PostgreSQL, Oracle Database (SQL)
Infrastructure / DevOps	Kubernetes, Nomad, Terraform, Consul, HAProxy, Drone, GCP
Data Processing	Python, Scala, Spark, Storm, HDFS, Avro, Kafka, Drools
Web / Mobile	JavaScript, React, React Native, Swift (iOS), Java (Android)

Awards

Reliability Hero Nominee, one of 17 across company (Meta)	Nov 2023
Remote Self-checkout, Patent Number: US11734664B2 (Target)	Aug 2023
Executive Challenge Winner, "Safest Place to Shop" (Target)	July 2020
Eagle Scout (Led robotics workshop for elementary school teachers)	Aug 2013