

DERICK A. GROSS

New York, NY • derick.gross@gmail.com • derickgross.github.io

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Senior software engineer with 10 years of experience leading the architecture and delivery of distributed systems and AI-powered platforms. Trusted to drive technical direction, influence cross-functional teams, and solve complex engineering problems at scale.

CORE STRENGTHS

Technical Architecture • AI Platforms & Agentic Systems • Backend Engineering • Cloud Infrastructure • Cross-Team Leadership • System Design • DevOps • Engineering Mentorship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer

Annalect | August 2024 – Present

- Backend lead for a greenfield enterprise AI platform serving **6,000+ users**, partnering with engineering leadership to define architecture and long-term technical direction.
 - Architected scalable backends, async workflows, and multi-model data architecture.
 - Led design and delivery of a cross-platform messaging architecture while coordinating integration efforts across **seven engineering teams** replacing legacy systems.
 - Authored architecture proposals, migration plans, and technical design documents while leading code reviews and technical implementation across the engineering team.
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Product Engineer

Ridgeline | August 2020 – July 2023

- Helped architect the firm's next-generation investment platform, contributing to API and workflow improvements that enabled a **1000× performance increase**.

- Led infrastructure optimization initiatives that reduced recurring cloud costs by **25%**.
 - Established observability improvements using Datadog and automated alerting, reducing production response times from **3 hours to 7 minutes**.
 - Championed engineering excellence through formal design reviews, reusable data access architecture, and a DevOps mentoring program.
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Instructor Lead – Software Engineering

General Assembly | March 2019 – June 2019

- Taught software engineering to students who joined Amazon, Meta, Spotify, IBM, etc..
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Software Developer

True Earth Health Products | November 2016 – March 2019

- Reduced mobile payload from **10.6 MB to 1.6 MB**, increasing mobile conversion **21.9%** and generating an estimated **\$2.1M** in annual revenue.
 - Built event-sourced workforce management platform, improving QA efficiency by **45%**.
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

AI & Architecture: Agentic AI, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), LLM Integration, AI Evaluation, Distributed Systems, System Design

Backend: Node.js, REST APIs, GraphQL, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, PostgreSQL, Redis

Cloud & DevOps: AWS, Azure, Docker, CI/CD, GitOps, Git, GitHub

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate

Launch School, Mastery-Based Software Development

Columbia University, Chemical Engineering (20 credits remaining)