

David Bowland

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

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PROFILE

- Builds software and teams that hold up under real-world pressure
- Effective translator between geek and English
- Connoisseur of groan-inducing dad jokes

EXPERIENCE

Jul 2024 – Present

Director of Engineering at ProductPlan

Lead Engineer · Manager, Engineering · Director of Engineering

- Brought in directly by the board to evaluate and strengthen the company's engineering practices
- The first at ProductPlan to champion AI: led adoption across the product, customer service, and the engineering workflow before it was standard practice
- Built the foundational AI infrastructure — in-app chat assistant, customer service bots, and developer tooling — that became the baseline for subsequent AI work
- Leads teams spanning both feature development and platform work
- Ships continuously from a Ruby on Rails and React monorepo via daily deploys
- Elevates engineers across levels — junior to senior IC — through code review, architecture guidance, and one-on-ones

Apr 2021 – Jul 2024

Technical Lead at TalentReef

Senior Software Engineer · Technical Lead

- Led the highest-performing feature team — a distinction earned within six months of inheriting a formerly production support team
- Designed a cloud-native architecture on AWS (ECS, Lambda, RDS) to replace a legacy monolith
- Established engineering best practices and the processes to make them stick
- Coached other team leads on leading teams and shipping
- Automated repetitive DevOps work with CloudFormation, Terraform, and shell scripting

Mar 2020 – Apr 2021

Software Developer at Carfax

- Built JVM-based backend services and data pipelines
- Built Node.js services with React frontends
- Deployed via Jenkins to Kubernetes on AWS or on-premise
- Promoted to acting team leader within ten months of joining

Nov 2014 – Mar 2020

Senior Programmer Analyst at Boone County Government

Programmer Analyst · Senior Programmer Analyst

- Built full-stack web applications with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript on ASP, ASP.NET, and Java backends
- Wrote COBOL and IBM CL applications on IBM System i
- Owned product management for two major projects end-to-end
- Earned three merit-based raises outside the annual review cycle

SKILLS	LANGUAGES	TypeScript · JavaScript · Python · Java
	BACKGROUND IN	Ruby · COBOL · Terraform
	SQL	PostgreSQL · Microsoft SQL Server · DB2 · MySQL
	NOSQL	DynamoDB · Redis
	TECHNOLOGIES	Argo · CircleCI · Docker · Git · GitHub Actions · Kibana · Kubernetes · Jira · NewRelic · Splunk
	AWS	API Gateway · Athena · CloudFormation · CloudFront · CloudWatch · Cognito · ECS · EventBridge · Lambda · Pinpoint · QuickSight · RDS · Route 53 · S3 · SES · SQS · Secrets Manager · Step Functions
	AI — APPLIED	Claude API · Amazon Bedrock · RAG · Prompt Engineering · Claude Code

EDUCATION

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Columbia College — Columbia, MO
Bachelor of Science — GPA 3.68 · Computer Science / Business

 - Graduated cum laude with a GPA of 3.68/4.0
 - Earned an A in all computer science classes
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David H. Hickman High School — Columbia, MO