

Contact

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Top Skills

Distributed Systems
Scalability
Python

Minwen Ji

Director of Engineering at Intuit
Palo Alto, California, United States

Experience

Intuit

Director of Engineering / Distinguished Engineer
August 2023 - Present (1 year 10 months)
Mountain View, California, United States

Niantic, Inc.

Senior Director Of Engineering, Platform and Infrastructure
June 2021 - July 2023 (2 years 2 months)
Sunnyvale, California, United States

Leading the Platform and Infrastructure team that supports new games and services as well as Pokemon Go and Augmented Reality:

- Web store: where players can purchase virtual goods directly
- Trust & safety: anti cheat, content moderation, GDPR, CRM (player support)
- Core infrastructure: client infra, server infra
- Core game features: common build blocks for all Niantic games including monetization and location tracking
- Developer experiences: improving productivity for all Niantic developers
- Build & release: build infrastructure, CI/CD, release engineering
- Site reliability engineering: building and managing infrastructure for 99.99% uptime and low cost
- Quality assurance and test automation: keeping the quality bar high

Houzz

Senior Director of Engineering
November 2016 - June 2021 (4 years 8 months)
Palo Alto, CA

Leading the engineering team that is responsible for the infrastructure and platform at Houzz.

- Core infra: cluster management (Kubernetes, Terraform, AWS), storage (MySQL, Redis, Cassandra, Elastic Search), streaming (Kafka, Filebeat, Flink), monitoring (Prometheus, Kibana, Grafana), security (Vault, AppGate), networking (Istio, Nginx, Haproxy), etc.

- Data infra: data warehouse (Cloudera, HDFS), query engines (Spark, Presto, Hive, Impala), scheduler (Airflow, Luigi) and core map reduce jobs that support analytics and machine learning.
- Dev tools: release engineering, CI/CD pipeline (Spinnaker, Kustomize, Helm, Jenkins, Github).
- Frontend infra: NodeJS, ReactJS, Webpack, unified build and deployment tooling for Javascript/PHP/Java applications, Customer Data Platform.
- Platform: Async job scheduling, ABTest tooling, data access framework, DNS management (Route 53, Dynect).

Hands-on projects:

- Worked on Istio networking, resource management, performance optimization, troubleshooting and overall strategy in the migration of Houzz web stack from AWS EC2 to Kubernetes.
<https://blog.houzz.com/building-a-large-scale-cluster-with-kubernetes-and-istio/>
<https://blog.houzz.com/challenges-and-solutions-in-building-a-large-scale-cluster-with-kubernetes-and-istio/>
- Built the Redis and Cassandra clusters and migrated legacy data to the new clusters with zero down time.
<https://blog.houzz.com/migration-to-redis-cluster/>
- Launched automatic failover service for MySQL servers.
- Optimized the web stack (Apache, HHVM, data access layer) for higher reliability and lower cost.

Facebook

Software engineer

January 2011 - November 2016 (5 years 11 months)

Menlo Park, CA

First engineer to build Facebook's software load balancer (Proxygen), fronting web servers in data centers and serving as edge routers in remote POPs.

- <https://github.com/facebook/proxygen>

Shipped the "story bumping" feature in Facebook's news feed ranking algorithm.

- <http://techcrunch.com/2013/08/06/facebook-story-bumping/>.
- <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2013/12/03/facebook-news-feed/3849181/>

Helped to build and launch Facebook Instant Articles

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/13/technology/facebook-media-venture-to-include-nbc-buzzfeed-and-new-york-times.html>

Built the backend of Facebook music stories

- <http://techcrunch.com/2015/11/05/facebook-debuts-music-stories-a-new-way-to-discover-and-share-songs-from-spotify-and-apple-music/>

VMware

Senior Staff Engineer

July 2005 - January 2011 (5 years 7 months)

- Lead engineer on the Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) project.
- Lead engineer on the Storage DRS project.

Compaq Systems Research Center / HP Labs

Research Scientist

2001 - 2005 (4 years)

Palo Alto, CA

Research on distributed storage systems, networking and security.

Education

Princeton University

PhD, Computer Science · (1996 - 2001)

Tsinghua University

Bachelor, Computer Science

Tsinghua University

Bachelor of Science - BS, Computer Science