jeff kao

jeffkao.ca · jeff.kao.000@gmail.com · LinkedIn

RADAR LABS

Principal Engineer | New York, NY | 2019–present

Designed and built HorizonDB: a linearly-scalable Rust geospatial database saving six figures annually and powering all search, map and geo queries at Radar at X0,000 QPS.

Built Durable Cache, a linearly-scalable, bottomless object storage backed database that accepts durable write-throughput traffic at X0,000 QPS, powering decoupled reads and streaming workloads.

Built KeyVal, a service that indexes and serves high-cardinality offline datasets with sub-millisecond p99 latencies at X0,000 QPS.

Introduced 0-1 technologies at Radar: TypeScript, Rust, Apache Iceberg & Parquet, Apache Spark, Apache Airflow, Metabase, dbt.

Tech lead for the platform and maps teams; infrastructure supporting 1B+ daily API calls across 100M+ devices. Interim roles as engineering manager, head of eng and conducted >100 interviews.

NORTHSPRING TECHNOLOGIES

Co-founder | Toronto, ON | 2018

Built a profitable software business with apps featured on the Shopify App Store front page; acqui-hired by Radar.

SOUNDCLOUD

Senior Engineer / Technical Product Manager | Berlin, DE | 2016–2018

Owned data platform product direction; introduced BigQuery and Airflow, set up catalog system for data lake assets with explicit ownership and schema guarantees.

Operated online and offline data services: Kafka at 100K+ QPS, A/B testing at 10K QPS, and Spark clusters spanning hundreds of nodes.

Reduced pipeline runtime and compute costs through Spark optimization and terabyte-scale migrations from Protobuf to queryable Parquet datasets.

FOURSQUARE

Senior Engineer / Tech Lead | New York, NY | 2014–2016

Led up to five engineers across web, backend, and mobile to ship opinion collection, lists, search, and offline mode.

EDUCATION & INTERNSHIPS

University of Waterloo – BASc, Computer Engineering (Honors), 2014

Nanyang Technological University – Engineering Exchange, 2013

Internships – Foursquare, PagerDuty, Inkling, Sybase/SAP, AECL