DANIEL ANCUTA

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ABOUT ME

Results-driven and highly experienced professional with over 17 years of hands-on expertise in diverse technologies. Proven leadership skills with a solid track record of 5 years as a Team Leader, successfully guiding cross-functional teams.

Known for a pragmatic approach, I excel in collaborating closely with business stakeholders, including the Head of Engineering and Vice President, to align technical strategies with organizational goals.

Adept at delivering impactful solutions through effective leadership and a comprehensive understanding of the development landscape.

WORK EXPERIENCE

BACKEND ENGINEERING TEAM LEAD

EPSY HEALTH

Period: Jan 2023 - Present
Remotely

As the Engineering Team Lead at Epsy Health, I spearheaded the successful transition of the backend team to an event-driven microservices environment, elevating system reliability and scalability.

Collaborating closely with the Mobile Team Lead and Head of Engineering I facilitated effective cross-team communication, ensuring seamless coordination between backend, frontend and mobile development.

Beyond technical achievements, my role extended to line management, where I actively engaged in building a collaborative and goal-oriented team environment.

I played a key role in recruitment processes, bringing in two exceptional team members. Additionally, my involvement in performance reviews and streamlined onboarding processes contributed to the overall efficiency of the team.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Prepared a technical roadmap for the backend team, that was aligned with business goals, to make sure smooth work of platform.
- Hired two outstanding team members.
- Enhanced the recruitment and onboarding process for new team members.
- Fully migrated from a legacy platform to an event-driven microservices environment.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINNER

EPSY HEALTH

Period: August 2020 - January 2023
Remotely

Epsy is a leading digital health platform empowering patients, caregivers and healthcare providers with a better way to live with seizures and epilepsy.

"The best epilepsy management app."

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Designed and executed a strategic plan to transition our Flask-based monolith application into a microservices and event-driven architecture.

This overhaul significantly improved scalability, performance, and development efficiency.

- Successfully orchestrated the migration of the existing user database from PostgreSQL to Amazon Cognito.
- Implemented robust data synchronization mechanisms between mobile devices and the backend using AWS Amplify and AppSync, ensuring seamless and real-time communication, thereby enhancing user experience.
- Led efforts to make the application multi-region.

Technologies: AWS (Amplify, AppSync, Redshift, Glue and many more), Python, TypeScript

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DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEAD

LIFEWORKS

Period: February 2019 - August 2020
Remotely

LifeWorks is modern EAP solution available in almost every country with millions of users using it every day across multiple different channels.

My main focus was around leading team of 6 developers across multiple projects delivered parallely.

It also included line management of 6 people, one to one, performance reviews

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Upskilled PHP developers to be proficient in Python
- Lead the process of migrating whole platorm from legacy code to microservices
- Improved interview and onboarding processes (self assessment form, code review test, standardized initial call) and hiring 4 developers

Realisations: lifeworks.com

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

LIFEWORKS

Period: June 2018 - February 2019
Remotely

LifeWorks is modern EAP solution available in almost every country with millions of users using it every day across multiple different channels.

I have got hired to help transition monolith PHP legacy to micro services architecture with use of AWS and Python and build team.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Migrated CI/CD pipeline to Bamboo and unified it across backend and frontend teams
- Built internal tool to bootstrap new micro service that automates process of migrating it from legacy
- Took over already delayed crucial for business project (onboarding of companies and users) and deliver it on time
- Built distributed event-driven system used as a core for all micro services (recently amazon introduced EventBridge which is equivalent to it)

Technologies: *AWS (ECS, ECR, SNS, SQS, Lambda, Api Gateway, DynamoDB, Step Functions, CloudWatch), Terraform, Docker, Python, Flask, Git, Serverless, Bamboo, Jira, Datadog*

Realisations: lifeworks.com

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

THREADS STYLING

Threads Styling is a personal shopping platform specializing in luxury products.

Period: September 2017 - February 2018
London, UK (part time remotely)

I joined the team with a mission to establish a new workforce and transition a legacy Ruby application into a more scalable microservices architecture.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Successfully collected and organized gigabytes of WhatsApp data from multiple iPhone devices, normalizing it, and indexing it in ElasticSearch.
- Integrated a new microservices architecture into the legacy app, enabling automated parcel delivery status tracking through Salesforce.

Technologies: *AWS (ECS, ECR, SNS, SQS, Lambda, Api Gateway, CloudWatch), Terraform, Docker, Python, Chalice, Bottle, Serverless, Flask*

LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER

FLUBIT

Period: January 2015 - September 2017
London, UK (part time remotely)

After team expanded I have got promoted to lead role. On top of my regular responsibilities related to software engineering, I focused more on blueprinting technical solutions for a team of 4 people and overviewing separated projects.

I was also involved in interviewing of new candidates.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

FLUBIT

Period: April 2014 - January 2015
London, UK (part time remotely)

Flubit was a marketplace aiming to compete with Amazon by offering competitive prices. My role involved creating different parts of the software using technologies like Symfony2 (PHP) and Flask (Python), specifically implementing several REST APIs (microservices).

I collaborated closely with product owners and the data science team, focusing on critical business aspects like Product Matching, Inventory Search, and tools to ensure data quality. For both Product Matching and Inventory Search, I utilized Elasticsearch, a powerful search engine, managing around 60 million product documents.

To keep the system updated in real-time, I designed and implemented an event-driven indexing process. This involved using RabbitMQ to broadcast messages (around 700 per second) and Python to index the data into Elasticsearch.

Additionally, I played a key role in promoting good practices within the team, such as code reviews, maintaining a consistent development environment, and ensuring that libraries were up-to-date. I also took on a mentoring role, providing guidance to junior team members.

Technologies: *PHP + Symfony2, Elasticsearch, Python, Flask, Celery, TDD (phpspec), BDD (Behat), Vagrant + SaltStack, RabbitMQ, Beanstalkd, Jenkins CI, Doctrine ORM, MySQL*

Realisations: flubit.com

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

SENSIOLABS UK

Period: October 2012 - April 2014
London, UK

I worked closely with big clients like TalkTalk and feelunique.com, mostly at their offices. My main job was to help their teams improve how they develop software. I did this by working together with them (pair programming) and providing training sessions.

A big part of my work involved upgrading old software to a new and better version. I focused on using smart ways of testing the code, like TDD (Test-Driven Development) with phpspec and BDD (Behavior-Driven Development) with Behat. This not only made the development process smoother but also ensured the code was strong and easy to maintain.

I also played a role in a team that made sure everything continued running smoothly even outside regular working hours.

Technologies: *PHP + Symfony2, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Redis, Doctrine ORM, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch, TDD (phpspec), BDD (Behat), Vagrant + Chef, Git, Jenkins CI, Travis, Scrum, Bower*

Realisations: Several projects on clients side

SOFTWARE ENGINEER
KOMPUTRONIK S.A

Period: November 2009 - January 2012
Poland (part time remotely)

Contributing to the development of a bespoke e-commerce application utilized by one of Poland's largest retail giants. Operating within a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA), the platform seamlessly integrated backend systems using both REST and RPC, serving diverse frontend applications.

Beyond standard working hours, I actively participated in a dedicated team ensuring the sustained reliability and performance of the platform.

Technologies: *PHP + Symfony2, MySQL, Oracle Database, Propel ORM, Varnish, Git, Jenkins CI, SOAP, REST, SOA*

Realisations: www.komputronik.pl, www.k24.cz, www.karen.pl, pl.coccodrillo.eu

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SELF EMPLOYED

Period: February 2008 - October 2012
Poland (part time remotely)

Working as a contractor across multiple companies and projects.

Technologies: *PHP + Symfony2, PostgreSQL (PL/pgSQL), MySQL, Doctrine ORM, Propel ORM, Git, SVN, Jenkins CI, SOAP, REST, jQuery, Prototype*

PHP DEVELOPER
CD PROJEKT (GOG.COM)

Period: September 2007 - February 2008
Poland

GOG.com (formerly Good Old Games) is a computer game sale and distribution service.

GOG delivers "classic" video games through its DRM-free digital platform for Windows and Mac OS X.

Technologies: *PHP, SVN, MySQL, jQuery, MooTools*

Realisations: *www.gog.com*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Personal website - ancuta.org
- GitHub - www.github.com/whisller
- LinkedIn - www.linkedin.com/in/danielancuta

Latest articles I wrote:

- AWS Amplify Override Amplify-generated resources. On example with resolvers.
- Protocol Buffers RPC calls through WebSockets on AWS Lambda with API Gateway
- Error tracking and incident response on production with Sentry + Squadcast + Linear + Slack
- Strategies to Migrate Users to AWS Cognito Pool

read more on my website ancuta.org