SOFTWARE ENGINEERING LEADER

Rachel E. Harsley

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SUMMARY Proven engineering leader with experience in organizing and motivating teams and rapidly developing and iterating on scalable, billion-user products

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Chicago PhD in Computer Science May 2017

Vanderbilt University

B.S. in Computer Science May 2011

TECHNICAL INTERESTS

- Full Stack Engineering
- Technical Leadership
- Machine Learning
- Web & Mobile Applications
- Natural Language
 Processing

TECH SKILLS

Programming Languages:

Java, Go, Python, C++, Objective-C, SQL

Technologies:

Google Cloud Platform, Linux

Web:

Angular, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

KEY SKILLS

- Motivated team leader always open to feedback
- Creative problem solver with ability to find scalable solutions through ambiguity

WORK EXPERIENCE

Google Inc.

Search Technical Lead May 2021 - present

- Created and drove the strategy for Small to Medium Business (SMB) content automation, including cross-organizational collaborations and roadmaps
- Led technical strategy and design for content extraction for Google merchant menus and other merchant data retrieval using Gemini, GenAl
- Led newly formed Google Search Food Merchant Menus team to 17 launches leading to 75% growth in merchant provided menus globally in 1.5 years

Corporate Engineering Technical Lead Jan 2020 - May 2021

- Established long-term technical goals and short term milestones for team of nine full-time software engineers
- Launched two confidential end-to-end services for internal security and productivity resulting in \$15M yearly savings
- Contributed to code and design doc reviews and wrote peer-reviewed code submissions
- Created weekly pair programming and regular knowledge sharing system to boost team culture during pandemic
- Managed relationship with adjacent teams and management stakeholders

Area 120

Project Kumin Co-founder, Engineering Lead Oct 2018 - Jan 2020

- Formed product vision for new visual shopping experience powered by influencer content and augmented by Google Lens
- Led the engineering side of the product in all phases from design to launch with the goal of rapid, lean development.
- Within three months, launched externally available MVP with over 28,000 lines of code in multiple languages (substantially Typescript and Go)
- Gathered feedback from real users and coordinated with Google shopping counterparts to influence larger Google Shopping strategy
- Set technical direction, success metrics and measured outcomes for three full-time software engineers and one part-time software engineer
- Fostered a team culture of enthusiasm, engagement and respect
- Managed cross-organizational partnerships with engineering leads and product managers
- Recruited, interviewed, and hired all of engineering team

- Strong communication skills and ability to partner with cross-functional leads
- Expert research skills and experience to apply technical solutions to real-world problems
- Energetic mentor and team-player who fosters a culture of inclusiveness and respect
- Experienced technical leader who sets engineering strategy, metrics, and motivates others

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

See Google Scholar

Google Inc.

Access Transparency Compliance Technical Lead Mar 2017 - Dec 2019

- Led the creation of an internal dashboard for automatically tracking compliance for Access Transparency (AXT), a Google Cloud product offering which unlocked \$1B in revenue
- Won Google-wide Feats of Engineering award in recognition of larger AXT efforts including the dashboard's automated method of scalable, cross team compliance tracking
- Led initial compliance dashboard launch with automated analysis of 29 teams and 45 compliance metrics. This has now scaled to over 200 internal teams/services and 70+ automated metrics for teams to measure compliance.
- Coordinated partnerships with adjacent teams to align engineering efforts

Maychild Technologies

Chief Technical Officer

2012 - 2017

- Led product design and launch for Clean Slate Messenger; a messaging app that allowed for deletion of messages from both phones and letter by letter, instant messaging. Winner of UIC Startup Challenge 2016 and Chicago Regional RECESS Pitch 2016. Garnered users in 10+ countries by word of mouth alone in the first month post-launch.
- Crafted initial business plan, product niche, and product development strategies and managed direct reports.

AWARDS, MEDIA, AND PRESS

- 2018 Crain's Chicago 50 Under 50
- 2017 National Society of Black Engineers Graduate Student of the Year
- 2016 Chicago RECESS Startup Pitch 1st Place
- 2016 WGN Radio WinTrust Business Lunch Guest Appearance
- 2016 Black Enterprise Magazine "10 Unique Black Women-Owned Tech Startups"
- 2016 ChicagoInno "A UIC PhD Student Made a Messaging App..."