Kevin Colten

Chief Technology Officer
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A Chief Technology Officer (CTO) with expertise in tech-enabled service companies, business intelligence, and software development. Skilled in leading teams and implementing technology strategies that drive business growth, improve operations, and enhance customer experience. Experience in designing and building software systems and managing data analytics projects to extract insights and support decision-making. Strong background in identifying and analyzing industry trends and emerging technologies to identify opportunities and stay ahead of the competition. Proven ability to work closely with cross-functional teams, including product management, engineering, and sales, to drive innovation and achieve business objectives.

Technologies

JavaScript · Node.js · Express.js · React.js · React Native · SQL · NoSQL · Snowflake · Data Visualization · Metabase · Business Intelligence · Executive Dashboards · AirByte · Custom ETLs · DigitalOcean · AWS · Heroku · Dokku · CMS · LMS · CRM · HubSpot · Integrations · Browser Extensions · Postman · REST API · JSON · MarTech · Sales Ops · Stripe · MLS (RESO/RETS) · Agile SAAS · Engineering Management · GitHub · GitHub Actions · CircleCI · Ruby/Rails · Python/Django · PHP/Laravel · GIS/GeoJSON · NLP · Twilio · DNS · Cloudflare · Matching Algorithms · Phishing Prevention · Server Monitoring

EXPERIENCE

Zollege — *Chief Technology Officer*

AUG 2019 - PRESENT **ACQUIRED 2021 by Serent Capital**

https://zollege.com

Managing technical infrastructure of 100+ vocational training schools across the US.

- Setting a vision for how technology will be used in the company.
- Ensuring that the technological resources meet the company's short and long-term needs.
- Outline the goals for research and development.
- Creating timelines for the development and deployment of all technological services.
- Making executive decisions on behalf of the company's technological requirements.
- Acting as a mentor to team members.
- Maintaining a consumer-focused outlook and aiding in the delivering of IT projects to market.
- Managing technology budgets and time frames.
- Staying on top of technology trends and developments.
- Ensuring all technology practices adhere to regulatory standards.

PROFILES

https://kevincolten.com

https://linkedin.com/in/kevincolten

https://github.com/kevincolten

SKILLS

Product Management

- Manage development team
- Maintain budgets
- Write out descriptive requirements
- Hire new technology role positions
- Train new technology hires
- Manage DNS and productivity software
- Organize product assets

Sales Ops

- Build out and maintain CRM
- Automate workflows and movement of data
- Develop integrations
- Map out sales pipelines

Marketing Technology

- Install marketing solutions
- Measure engagement and advertising
- Web development

Cybersecurity

- Ensure compliance in technical and business architecture
- Enforce authentication and authorization policies
- Treat sensitive data as a liability rather than an asset

Business Intelligence

- Map ETL pipelines to gather data from different services

Austin Coding Academy — *Chief Technology Officer + Senior Software Engineer + Lead Instructor*

AUG 2015 - Aug 2019 **ACQUIRED 2019 by Zollege**

https://austincodingacademy.com

In charge of all things technical, authored curriculum, and taught web development courses to adult learners.

- Responsible for entire company software infrastructure
- Created, maintained, and led interns and contributors on Campus Manager, our custom Learning Management System built with Node.js/Express.js/MongoDB/React.js/Backbone.js
- Authored curriculums on HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Backbone.js, React.js, Node.js, Express.js, MongoDB
- Developed student workbooks with CI integration for linting
- Built reporting infrastructure that combined data from multiple sources: Payments, CRM, LMS, etc.
- Implemented automation for web hooks, status checks, user events, reports, deployments, tests, etc.
- Implementing/analyzing tracking services such as Google Analytics/Tag Manager, Facebook Pixel, click heatmaps, etc
- Search Engine Optimization

SkillsEngine — *Senior Software Engineer*

Oct 2017 - Mar 2019

https://skillsengine.com

Develop web service around skill predicting and aligning machine-learning driven service.

- Work with modern web stack: React + Redux, Ember, Ruby on Rails
- Agile environment and collaborative coding
- Full Stack development, worked on all corners of the code base, services, and integrations

Anaconda — *Software Engineer*

JUNE 2015 - JAN 2017

https://anaconda.com

Bokeh contributor, an open-source python driven graph generator. Implemented and designed client-specific projects and solutions.

- Worked on *https://anaconda.org*, a packaging and environment manager repository
- Contributed to open-source packages such as Bokeh *https://bokeh.pydata.org*
- Contributed to *https://www.ospc.org/taxbrain/*
- Fast-paced full-stack client-specific projects with modern web development stacks
- Introduced and implemented Continuous Integration practices
- Tools worked with: Django/Django Rest Framework, Flask, Backbone.js, Bokeh, iPython Notebooks

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- Install and maintain SQL reports and data visualizations
- Monitor KPIs and IT budgets to assess technological performance

Support Operations

- Install customer support pipelines
- Document and train support staff
- Provide tools needed to support customer troubleshooting

Technology Vendor Relations

- Research vendor products that align with business needs
- Learn product and read documentation
- Train internal staff if needed
- Interface with vendor support if needed
- Negotiate cost of vendor services if possible

Qualifications

- Proven experience as a CTO
- 8 years working in a technological role
- 5 years of engineering managerial experience
- Advanced technological skill set and a demonstrated history with technology
- Board presentations
- Knowledge of technological trends to build strategy
- Understanding of budgets and business-planning
- Ability to conduct technological analyses and research
- Excellent communication skills
- Exceptional team management skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Leadership and organizational abilities
- Strategic thinking
- Problem-solving aptitude
- Ability to delegate efficiently
- Extensive industry knowledge with an eye towards the future

Generation Ready — *Lead Software Engineer + Architect*

NOV 2013 - JUNE 2015

https://generationready.com

Designed, built, and maintained in-house internet software. Headed small team of web developers and quality assurance technicians.

- Flourished in a fast-paced, agile environment
- Developed deep PHP and Javascript skills
- Tools worked with: Laravel, Backbone.js, MySQL, AWS

CLIENTS AND PROJECTS

CMAsnap — *Partner + Fractional CTO*

https://cmasnap.com

Developed and launched CMA software for realtors

- Built application from the ground up
- Integrated into CRM to track sales, support, and marketing
- Maintain Business Intelligence platform to monitor KPIs
- Agile development environment
- Enforce cybersecurity policies
- Research and implement third party software
- Hire and train new technology staff when needed
- Marketing tech, sales ops, and web development

OliveUs — *Fractional CTO*

https://oliveusapp.com

Premium Sitter Matching App

- Built initial mobile app (NannyTribe)
  - *https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p-dIehxvL_uQCQ7Szq5K3drf4xr-2fH8*
  - React Native + Node.js/Express.js + Postgres
  - Beta release on TestFlight
  - Custom built matching algorithm
- Project manage outsourced development team
- Integrated app into CRM
- Build data pipelines and BI dashboards

AdFree.Life — *Ad Blocking as a Service*

https://web.archive.org/web/20181128042929/https://www.adfree.life/

- Sets up a pre-configured Pi-Hole on a dedicated VPS
- Uses cron jobs to generate daily trials
- Hit #11 on Hacker News!
  (*https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=14910683*)
- Built with Express.js, Node.js, MongoDB, DigitalOcean API

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Math K-12 Texas Educator, Texas

Eta Phi Lambda Honors, Lamar University

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America

EDUCATION

App Academy, San Francisco, CA — *Web Development*

JULY 2013 - OCT 2013

Lamar University, Beaumont, TX — *B.S. Communications, Cum Laude*

AUG 2005 - DEC 2009

OPEN SOURCE

YoSQL — *NoSQL/JSON to SQL converter*
https://github.com/kevincolten/yosql

Converts NoSQL databases and JSON into relational databases

Campus Manager — *Learning Management System*

https://github.com/AustinCodingAcademy/campus-manager

- Handles grades, attendance, screencasts, registration, payments, etc
- Over 1000 Users
- Supports webhooks with Zapier
- Powerful reporting engine
- Built with MongoDB, Node.js, Express.js, Passport.js, Backbone.js, and React.js