Jairam Chandar

Professional and Academic Highlights

- More than **18 years of experience** in software engineering and engineering leadership
- Experience leading multiple distributed and co-located teams
- Extensive experience with Amazon AWS, Azure, Kubernetes, and Terraform
- Awarded **Masters in Computer Science** with Distinction from the University of Edinburgh
- M.Sc. dissertation involved work on Join-Algorithms using **Hadoop**

Top Skills

Engineering Leadership, Strategic Vision, Stakeholder Management

Technical Skills

Technologies: Hadoop, Cassandra, Kafka, HBase, Hive, Elasticsearch, Kubernetes, Terraform

Languages: Java, Scala, C#

Platforms: Unix/Linux, Amazon AWS, Microsoft Azure, Docker

Work Experience

Meltwater, London, UK

August 2018 - Present (7+ years)

Engineering Manager *January 2025 - Present*

- Lead Meltwater's Content Crawlers initiative, responsible for AI-powered web crawling and content extraction at scale
- Productionize machine learning algorithms that intelligently discover and extract editorial content from across the internet
- Architect cloud-native solutions on AWS (ECS, Lambda, RDS) and Azure (EKS, AKS) using Terraform for infrastructure-as-code
- Drive technical strategy, stakeholder alignment, cost optimization, and engineering process improvements across teams

Engineering Team Lead *January 2022 - January 2025*

Responsible for leading an engineering team building AI-powered content crawling and extraction systems. Combined hands-on technical leadership with people management, planning, stakeholder management, process improvements, cost estimations, mentoring, and career management.

Principal Software Engineer *April 2021 - December 2021*

Technical leadership role focused on architecture and design of AI-powered crawling infrastructure.

Senior Software Engineer II *August 2018 - April 2021*

Responsible for productionizing Artificial Intelligence algorithms designed for intelligently crawling and extracting editorial content from the Internet. Technologies involved:

- AWS Cloud Stack (EC2, ECS/ECR, Lambda, RDS)

- Java
- Docker
- RabbitMQ
- Dropwizard/Jersey REST
- Spring Boot
- Terraform

QuantumBlack Visual Analytics Ltd., London, UK

October 2016 - June 2018

Platform Engineer

Joined the QuantumBlack Platform Team working to design and create backend systems that support various Data Science solutions in the company. Also took on the role of **Solutions Architect** for some projects which involved direct interaction with the customers. Technologies used:

- Scala
- Spark
- Mesos

DataSift, Reading, UK

September 2011 - October 2016 (5 years 2 months)

Engineering Team Lead *September 2015 - October 2016*

Involved at important stages in design and development of the PYLON for Facebook Topic Data product. Technologies used include:

- Kafka
- Elasticsearch

Big-Data Engineer *September 2011 - September 2015*

Responsible for engineering platform solutions for handling extremely large datasets. As part of the data-warehousing team at DataSift, primarily responsible for archiving, curating and retrieval of massive amounts of social data accumulated every day. The data is in the order of 2 TB/day. Technologies used include:

- Hadoop (Map Reduce / HDFS)
- HBase
- Scala

Played a key role in development of Historics platform for mining archived social media data for customers.

VisualDNA (formerly Imagini Europe Limited), London, UK

December 2010 - September 2011

Back-End Developer

Working on Data Warehousing solutions using NoSQL technologies. Key player in build, maintenance and use of the following solutions:

- Cassandra - Primary Data-store (over 4 TB of data for real-time access and analytics)
- Hadoop - Main analytics engine (integrating analytics cluster with the data-store, MapReduce programs in Java)

- Hive - Running queries over Amazon S3 logs using Amazon Elastic MapReduce

Microsoft India (R&D) Private Limited, Hyderabad, India

June 2007 - May 2009

Software Development Engineer

Worked mainly on C# and ASP.NET. Also worked on Excel VBA scripting. Worked on .NET Compact Edition and created application for Windows Mobile as part of innovation initiative.

Education

MSc - Computer Science [Awarded Distinction]

September 2009 - September 2010

School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, U.K.)

Specialization Modules:

- Design & Analysis of Parallel Algorithms
- Advance Databases
- Distributed Systems
- Parallel Programming Languages & Systems
- Human Computer Interaction
- Compiler Optimisation
- Text Technologies & Information Retrieval
- Querying & Storing XML

Key coursework:

- **Dissertation - Join algorithms using Map/Reduce** - Evaluated existing join algorithms used in contemporary systems that use Map/Reduce. Designed two new algorithms for multi-way joins. Properties like selectivity factor of a join were exploited in design of the algorithms. The project was implemented using Hadoop and HDFS. The evaluation was done based on speed-up, scale-up and network I/O. The thesis was awarded distinction and is available for download.
- **Advanced Databases** - Extended the query engine of a home grown database to implement External Sort and Merge join algorithms. Secured 100% in the coursework.
- **Information Retrieval** - Developed a web crawler (using Python) capable of harvesting hyper-linked news stories. Implemented content-extraction, near-duplicate detection using SimHash, and keyword-based image search.
- **Querying and Storing XML** - Implemented an algorithm for updating XML via Relational Databases with 2 collaborators, involving incrementally updating recursively stored XML.
- **Distributed Systems** - Implemented a simulation of Chandy-Lamport snapshot algorithm for recording consistent global state of an asynchronous system.

B.Tech - Computer Science Engineering

July 2003 - May 2007

Amrita School of Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Coimbatore, India)

- Scored cumulative grade point average of 9.1 (on 10)
- Won Best Student Project award for a project on Machine Translation (English to Hindi)