

Matthew Skinner

AI Strategy & Engineering Leadership

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Summary: Engineering leader with 20+ years delivering software and data systems and 8+ years leading people and technical programs—from a 10-person dev company and 1,000+ person operations scope to cloud/data leadership at a public SaaS company. Hands-on with enterprise generative AI in production: architecture, retrieval and orchestration patterns, evaluation, and guardrails for safe, predictable behavior. Modernizing the data platform (Apache Iceberg lakehouse), shipping ML into finance and GTM (BigQuery ML), and owning a \$1.3M/yr cloud and vendor portfolio.

Experience

Senior Manager, Data Engineering & Architecture

May 2022 – Present

Elastic, Inc.

- Lead Cloud Engineering and Data Engineering teams (5 reports, cross-functional); partner with product, security, and business stakeholders on enterprise AI and data initiatives
- Helped design the software, data architecture, and deployment strategy for ElasticGPT — internal AI assistant with 2,100+ users, 125K+ chats, 400K+ interactions, saving 63 hrs/employee/year (92% DAU increase)
- Introduced Apache Iceberg as the lakehouse foundation for analytics and ML; shipped ML into operations: AR cash forecasting and self-serve models for Sales and Marketing (BigQuery ML)
- Implemented Spark, reducing data processing compute cost by ~70%; migrated NetSuite from 2,200 objects to 60, enabling SOX-compliant real-time financial reporting and AI-ready data
- Led change management for AI, data analytics, and ML adoption across departments

Data Analytics Architect

Apr 2021 – May 2022

Pluralsight, Inc.

- Designed enterprise cloud architecture for insights, data engineering, data science, and ML teams
- Migrated ML pipelines from batch SageMaker jobs to real-time Kafka-based prediction serving
- Managed \$3.2M/yr cloud spend across AWS, SageMaker, and Snowflake

Principal, Data & Integration Architect

Feb 2020 – Apr 2021

LP Building Solutions

- Migrated 29 on-prem manufacturing locations to Azure over 19 months at petabyte scale
- Cut data processing time by 70%, enabling real-time manufacturing defect detection
- Resulting ~2% defect reduction per plant generated \$120M in additional annual revenue — throughput equivalent of a 30th plant without building one
- Built integration layer connecting ERP, supply chain, and logistics systems

Principal, Business Intelligence Developer

Nov 2018 – Feb 2020

LP Building Solutions

- Built data models and reporting for corporate finance, logistics, and supply chain operations across a \$4B revenue manufacturer

Procurement Manager

2016 – Nov 2018

LP Building Solutions

- Managed \$250M/year in freight carrier contracts across North American logistics network

Regional Manager

2012 – 2016

Western Express

- Managed freight operations across 37 of 48 operating states, accounting for \$10M of \$15M in weekly billed freight (67% of company revenue)
- Oversaw 25 managers and 1,000+ drivers serving Walmart, Target, Costco, Sam's Club, BJ's, and Campbell's
- Reduced driver layover 4.6% MoM, decreased deadhead 9% YoY, improved delivery throughput 7.5% for high-volume customers

Owner

Aug 2002 – Dec 2012

SkinnerDev.com

- Ran a web and mobile development shop for 10 years; 185 customers, \$3M annual revenue, team of 10
- Shipped Android 2.2 and iOS 3 apps in 2010 with on-device receipt-photo-to-ERP expense parsing — on-device OCR-style functionality years before it was enterprise-ready

Technical Skills

AI/ML: Agentic AI, Generative AI, LLM Orchestration, RAG, LLM Evaluation, Reinforcement Learning, Model Fine-Tuning & Hosting, Inference Optimization, AI Safety & Guardrails, MLOps, Evaluation Pipelines

Cloud & Infra: Kubernetes, Envoy AI Gateway, Kubeflow, Crossplane, Terraform/IaC, GitOps, Azure/AWS/GCP

Data: Elasticsearch, Kafka/Flink, Spark/Trino, Apache Iceberg, Data Architecture, Data Engineering Pipelines

Leadership: Cross-Functional Team Leadership, AI Change Management, Business Process Analysis, Vendor Management, P&L Ownership, SOX/GDPR/PCI Compliance

Education

Data Analytics & Visualization Bootcamp — Vanderbilt University

2019–2020

AAS, Business Administration & Management — Volunteer State Community College

2006–2007

Certifications & Recognition

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals | Snowflake SnowPro Core | AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

2019 Nashville Technology Council Technologist of the Year Nominee | Speaker: Microsoft, Snowflake, dbt, GCP meetups