JONATHAN SASS

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Technical Lead | Senior Backend Engineer | Data and API Architect | Startup Builder

SUMMARY

Hands-on senior engineer and technical lead with 25+ years of experience building scalable cloud systems, REST APIs, data pipelines, and production software. Strong background in backend architecture, real-time data ingestion, distributed systems, and AI-integrated platforms. Experienced leading engineering teams, collaborating with product teams, and delivering complex projects from technical design through production.

Specialties: Technical Leadership · Backend Engineering · Data Pipelines · API Architecture · Distributed Systems · Cloud Platforms (AWS) · Startup Execution

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Senior Backend Engineer — MAGNIFEYE
1997 – Present

Founded and continue to develop a leading traffic, weather, and travel information platform serving the Truckee/Lake Tahoe region, now expanding nationally.

- Architected and built scalable cloud-based APIs and backend infrastructure supporting millions of users.
- Built data ingestion and ETL workflows aggregating traffic, camera, weather, and sensor data from 10+ states.
- Developed automated data collection and scraping systems for state agencies and other sources without public APIs.
- Integrated AI APIs to generate automated traffic reports and calculate end-to-end routes for users.

Tech Lead / Senior Engineer — AUDACY (Dig/Beat Team)
Aug 2022 – Jan 2025

- Led a distributed team of 6–10 engineers building large-scale ingestion, search, and generative-AI backend systems.
- Led the on-time development and launch of a mobile voice-recording product, enabling users to record audio on their phones and deliver recordings directly to radio stations; built the supporting backend and Redis infrastructure.
- Built REST APIs and event-driven data pipelines using AWS, Kafka, Snowflake, Redis, and PostgreSQL, supporting approximately 2.5 million podcast/content items daily.
- Led delivery and production operations using Jira, Kubernetes, and Datadog, collaborating with product and engineering teams on technical design and troubleshooting.

Senior Backend Developer — NEVADA NANO
Aug 2021 – Apr 2022

- Built Node.js interfaces to manage high-volume sensor datasets.
- Optimized pipelines for 30,000+ sensor life-history files.

- Refactored embedded/ARC board code for performance and reliability.

Software Developer / Project Lead — PLUMB FASHION
Jul 2020 – Aug 2021

Provided ongoing production support through Jun 2022.

- Rescued a two-year failed software project and delivered production iOS/Android applications and website.
- Built backend services supporting orders, production tracking, accounting, and operational workflows.
- Led a four-person startup development team through architecture, implementation, and delivery.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Nevada DETR - Backend Developer (2016-2020): Developed Java/Spring backend services and REST APIs for statewide employment systems, integrating third-party data sources and customer-facing applications.

Basecamp Productions (2007-16): Built backend systems enabling 1M+ live concert downloads.
StreamQuest / IM Networks / Connect Inc (1997–2013): Startup architecture and engineering for networking, streaming, and enterprise data systems.

Patents:

- **5,966,717:** Methods for importing data between database management programs
- **6,769,028:** Method and apparatus for sharing streaming links
- **6,823,225:** Apparatus for distributing and playing audio information

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Olympics: Course Crew – 2014 Sochi, 2017 PyeongChang World Cup, 2018 Olympics
Licensed Private Pilot

EDUCATION

BS — University of Michigan Actuarial Mathematics & Economics · Minor: Russian Studies

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Node.js, TypeScript, Python, Java, PHP, C, C#, Flutter/Dart
Data & Backend: PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Kafka, Redis
Cloud & DevOps: AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, CI/CD, Datadog
APIs & Systems: REST APIs, Microservices, Data Pipelines
AI & ML: MCP server development for image retrieval, LLM API integration, generative-AI workflows, AI-powered content/ingestion pipelines