

DAVID BYRON DRAKE

Engineering Leader • Team Builder • Former YC CTO • Tigard, Oregon
david@randomdrake.com • [linkedin.com/in/randomdrake](https://www.linkedin.com/in/randomdrake) • [davidbyrondrake.com](https://www.davidbyrondrake.com) • github.com/randomdrake

SUMMARY

Nearly two decades building and leading engineering teams as Director, YC-backed CTO, startup CEO, and senior engineer on systems that couldn't go down. I lead with trust and empathy, hire people who care about each other's success as much as their own, and consistently deliver above industry benchmarks. Agile success rates peaking at 89%, on-time delivery up 60%, support load cut in half. Most recently, I built an AI MCP infrastructure that connects seven platforms across the full insurance lifecycle, providing the organization with cross-system visibility from broker onboarding through claims. I trained as an actor before I wrote code, and the skills transfer: reading a room, holding attention, making complex things feel simple.

SKILLS

Leadership: Engineering Management, Emotional Intelligence, Hiring & Talent Development, Performance Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Stakeholder Communication, Agile/Scrum, Psychological Safety, Extreme Ownership

Languages: Go, PHP, JavaScript/TypeScript, Python, Java, C++, SQL, PL/pgSQL, Perl

Infrastructure & Tools: AWS (EC2, EKS, RDS), Angular, React, Laravel, D3.js, GitHub Actions, Kubernetes, Docker, Salesforce, Snowflake, MySQL, SQLite, ETL Pipelines

AI & Practices: Claude, AI MCP Infrastructure (GitHub, Linear, Salesforce, Snowflake, Slack), Custom MCP Server Development, Prompt Engineering, AI Governance, DevOps, SOC 2, HIPAA, CI/CD, Architecture Review

EXPERIENCE

DevOps & Engineering Manager | *Counterpart*

Dec 2024 – Mar 2026

Remote

- Led and mentored three teams — two full-stack engineering teams and DevOps — blending hands-on technical guidance with strategic direction to deliver complex, high-impact roadmap initiatives.
- Architected and implemented scalable systems — including a fully git-tracked Salesforce deployment pipeline using GitHub Actions, saving ~\$20k annually and improving deployment reliability.
- Built AI MCP infrastructure integrating seven platforms across the full insurance lifecycle — GitHub, Linear, Salesforce Sales (broker ingestion), Salesforce Claims, internal Policy Admin, Snowflake, and Slack — providing cross-system visibility from broker onboarding through claims processing.
- Leveraged Slack MCP integration to enable real-time translation capabilities, removing language barriers across a distributed team and multilingual broker network.
- Consistently drove Agile success rates above the 80% industry benchmark, peaking at 89% through clear commitments, scope management, and cross-team alignment.
- Partnered with Product Managers to align technical feasibility, resource planning, and business priorities, maximizing delivery impact.
- Championed compliance and data protection, ensuring systems and workflows met SOC 2 standards and HIPAA safeguards for sensitive customer and partner data.

Director of Engineering | *Flourish Software*

Jul 2021 – Oct 2024

Remote

- Managed cross-functional, international and domestic teams of up to 15 engineers, overseeing development of a large-scale supply chain platform built on Go, Angular/TypeScript, MySQL, and NoSQL.
- Enhanced project delivery timelines with Agile methodologies, leading to a 60% increase in on-time project completions.
- Achieved a 50% reduction in support engineering requests by pinpointing and resolving root causes and recruiting necessary engineering talent.
- Established and led an open-source initiative, generating increases in partnerships and revenue.
- Oversaw migration of analytics platforms from Looker to Sigma and built ETL pipelines to provide previously unavailable insights.
- Executed DevOps practices using Kubernetes on AWS to manage multi-zonal EC2 instances and RDS clusters, maintaining SOC 2 compliance.
- Led teams as product owner, scrum master, and engineering manager with Atlassian services (Jira, Bitbucket, Confluence), enhancing documentation and best practices across teams.

Senior Full Stack Engineer | *Expensify*

May 2018 – Jul 2021

Portland, Oregon · Hybrid

- Worked on engineering and DevOps infrastructure, responsible for moving millions of dollars on a daily basis.
- Secured receipts — the most valuable assets of the company — across six stacks: C++, PHP, Java, iOS, Android, and JavaScript.
- Engineered technology that handled thousands of requests per second during Super Bowl advertising traffic spikes.

- Helped define and document the hiring process used across the company and assisted in key hires that drove major technology changes.
- Successfully navigated a large tech stack backed by customized SQLite on self-hosted hardware and helped begin the transition to a new React-based front end.

Chief Executive Officer | *RedDep Labs*

Oct 2013 – May 2018

Oregon · Hybrid

- Managed a multidisciplinary team of 17 employees across HR, sales, engineering, and accounting in a dynamic startup setting.
- Developed a robust software platform using PHP (Laravel) with MySQL and Apache, with heavy Redis caching on Ubuntu — achieving peak traffic of 10,000,000 hits per month on a single server, serving tens of thousands of users worldwide.
- Designed and built a streamlined front-end interface using Bootstrap, JavaScript, and D3.js, contributing to a successful \$8.6M valuation secured from private investors.
- Led the organization of tens of thousands of brands, products, and medical studies, driving market data and analytics, establishing a social platform for reviews, and building a recommendation engine.

Chief Technology Officer | *iCracked (Y Combinator)*

Mar 2013 – Oct 2013

San Francisco Bay Area · On-site

- Served as CTO over the entire company, leading technology strategy across a small engineering team and over 400 technicians nationwide — creating a pioneering dispatching system that revolutionized technician visibility and deployment efficiency globally.
- Implemented communication protocols, security measures, and productivity tools, resulting in over 20% increase in overall operational efficiency.
- Spearheaded revamp of backend systems and customer store migration, increasing operational flexibility and reducing development time by up to 40%.
- Led website redesigns resulting in a 30% increase in conversions and improved SEO rankings.

Senior Software Engineer | *Glacial Energy*

Aug 2010 – Oct 2012

US Virgin Islands · On-site

- Designed and oversaw the development of critical systems and applications utilized by programmers and internal stakeholders.
- Saved thousands of hours by architecting an exception engine for ETL pipelines, resulting in a 30% increase in successful billing.
- Developed trading algorithms responsible for daily multi-million dollar purchasing decisions on retail electricity and natural gas.
- Engineered external services and vital systems for streamlining user interaction, boosting sales by over 15%.
- Maintained a custom technology stack including PHP, MySQL, Java, JavaScript, and Perl to optimize system performance and efficiency.

Senior Web Applications Engineer | *Grupthink*

Jan 2007 – Aug 2010

Missoula, Montana · On-site

- Architected backend infrastructure, including PostgreSQL, PHP, ActiveMQ, memcached, and customized DNS/hosting for deploying platform instances on VPS virtualization platforms.
- Spearheaded the implementation of Extreme Programming methodologies for a social feedback site with millions of monthly views, optimizing team collaboration and project delivery.
- Implemented a self-moderation algorithm for an online community using PL/pgSQL, achieving 200% month-over-month user growth without additional moderators.

EDUCATION

George Mason University

2003 – 2005

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Theater

Northern Virginia Community College

2001 – 2003

Associate of Applied Science, Software Application Development