

Mat Hunter

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Software Engineer/Architect/"Do-Things Guy"

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Software engineer/architect with 27+ years of experience delivering across a diversity of clients, including commercial, government, and media. Works across the entire lifecycle, defining requirements with stakeholders, building and shipping features, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring ongoing performance/reliability. Frequently becomes the go-to resource within and outside his direct organization to get things done. Brings deep backend expertise, insatiable curiosity, and the constant drive to improve applications, people, and organizations.

Recent Experience

The Washington Post | Senior Staff Engineer, Data+AI | Jan 2024 - May 2026

- Served as the lead SWE across 4 multidisciplinary teams, providing architectural guidance, extensive backend development effort, infrastructure and devops support, and individual mentorship.
- Co-led backend engineering for the release of Ask the Post (RAG-based Q&A), packaging ML scientist-created gen AI logic into a resilient API serving 430K+ chat interactions per month.
- Served as the lead backend SWE for Article Summaries, reviving a POC to deliver three major revisions of gen AI article summarization capability, serving 880K+ summaries per month.
- Acted as lead backend SWE on other major efforts, including a new real-time analytics API, additional gen AI-based reader-facing features, an internal gen AI chat application, and APIs and tools to support engineering initiatives.
- Took de facto ownership of 4 AWS accounts, leading cost-reduction and modernization efforts, including removal of unused workloads, consolidation/right-sizing of infrastructure, and migration to new AWS technologies.
- Served as a cross-org technical resource, supporting initiatives from Enterprise Systems (ticket categorization), Advertising (sentiment analysis), Newsroom (taxonomy), and Engineering (platform migration).
- Championed development/security improvements, including packaging changes to reduce build/deploy times, IaC consolidation/standardization, library/framework modernization, and Dependabot/CVE remediation.

The Washington Post | Senior Technical Architect, Subscriptions | Mar 2020 - Jan 2024

- Took full ownership of offer pricing and paywall configuration capabilities, adding testing and geo targeting capabilities, enabling developer self-service, and reducing call times 99% over 3M+ calls/day.
- Delivered key "auth via regwall" capability, bridging user account creation and subscription management to power free trials, .gov/.mil access, library partnerships (60+), and special marketing engagements (e.g., open days).
- Built article gift link capability—14 days free access to an article—from concept to MVP in <4 weeks, to post-launch volume of 5,000+ links/day, with continued wide adoption.
- Architected and delivered a sponsored subscription reservation system, enabling underwriting of subscriptions by partners; first used in a co-campaign with Barbie (27K premium subscriptions).
- Architected and led the implementation of a new subscription start attribute framework, enabling richer analytics to support business decision-making, while reducing engineering effort to expand.
- Collaborated across engineering, product, and sales to deliver an average of 6 major subscription sales annually, with increasingly-complex business rules and capabilities—including exclusions, cohort targeting.
- Headed efforts to improve performance and reliability across the application stack, including a reduction in service call times, improvement of service DR, reduction of bot traffic, and modernization of inter-service messaging.

The Washington Post | Principal Software Engineer, Video Engineering | Feb 2017 - Mar 2020

- Led onboarding of 12+ global media clients into the video CMS product, including the import of 800K+ video assets and the addition of new capabilities.

- Built the backend for an on-demand, live-streaming video application, enabling field orchestration and recording of video from a mobile application, with streaming to the site and VOD recording.
- Delivered expanded YouTube integration, streamlining publishing operations, reducing management man-hours, and unlocking additional monetization opportunities across clients.
- Created a standalone, clustered, FFMEPG microservice, providing lower-cost video processing capabilities, including video cropping and generation of thumbnails (800+/day, <1 sec).
- Drove sustained platform improvement, including language updates, DB consolidation, 70% reduction in build times (average 23 to 7 minutes), and self-service import capabilities.

Career Break/Personal Development | N/A | Aug 2016 - Feb 2017

- Spent time working on personal priorities, including marathon training and technical skill development.

PerfectJob/Sherpa.US | Full-Stack Developer | Nov 2015 - Aug 2016

- Contributed as a core full-stack developer on a two-developer team, delivering a production-ready MVP of a job-matching application platform, positioned for first-client onboarding ahead of revenue.
- Collaborated to architect and provision multi-environment AWS infrastructure spanning four deployment platforms across two VPCs, leveraging Elastic Beanstalk, EC2, RDS, DynamoDB, Lambda, and S3.
- Implemented application security controls focused on authentication and identity/SSO to protect user data ahead of launch

Effective Software Solutions, Inc | Principal Software Engineer | Nov 2014 - Nov 2015

Note: Client and project details are confidential by contractual agreement. This work represents a single contract engagement.

- Delivered ongoing development and system support for an entity and task management system, leveraging open-source libraries and custom Java artifacts to meet entity management and data transformation requirements.
- Applied graph database modeling in Neo4j to represent complex entity relationships and support sophisticated queries against business-critical data.
- Introduced static code analysis tooling and practices to the development team, bringing a focus on measurable code quality improvements.

Raytheon FMO | Principal Software Engineer | Apr 2014 - Nov 2014

Note: Client and project details are confidential by contractual agreement. This work represents a single contract engagement.

- Owned full-stack development and ongoing system support for an Oracle-backed, Groovy/Grails internal business application, delivering across all tiers of the application as the lead engineer.
- Led all customer-facing technical engagement, serving as the primary technical contact for gathering and documenting requirements, reporting development status, demonstrating functionality, and incorporating feedback.

Raytheon Henggeler Consulting | Senior Software Engineer | Feb 2011 - Apr 2014

Note: Client and project details are confidential by contractual agreement. This work encompasses the completion of the previous contract and a subsequent engagement.

- Advanced the platform migration from JBI-based Apache ServiceMix to OSGi-based Apache Karaf, delivering documentation and knowledge transfer ahead of a contract transition.
- Delivered ongoing development and tier 2/3 support for a data routing and transformation product, including installation and configuration assistance for individual client environments.
- Extended product capabilities to handle a wide array of streaming binary and cleartext formats, leveraging open-source libraries and custom-built Java artifacts.
- Introduced static code analysis tools and practices to the development team, raising the group's overall focus on and standard for code quality.

Henggeler Computer Consultants | Senior Software Engineer | Aug 2009 - Feb 2011

Note: Client and project details are confidential by contractual agreement. This work represents a single contract engagement.

- Served as the sole developer for an ongoing implementation and rearchitecture of a distributed data processing system.
- Led a full reimplement at customer direction to transition away from JBI-based Apache ServiceMix architecture to an OSGi-based Apache Karaf platform.
- Built Java/C++ services integrating open-source, COTS, and GOTS libraries to deliver composable data processing functions across a distributed JMS environment.
- Designed sophisticated routing and message transformation functions using Apache Camel and XQuery.
- Overhauled release build and deployment processes, replacing a highly manual and fragile workflow with a largely automated pipeline.

Cipher Systems | Applications Developer, Government | Aug 2006 - Aug 2009

Note: Client and project details are confidential by contractual agreement. This work represents multiple contract engagements.

- Built a suite of C#-based desktop tools to support a SQL Server-driven entity extraction workflow.
- Designed and built a LAMP/PHP-based content management system.
- Developed a CD-based DHTML courseware application.
- Developed Java data access and middleware layers for a data-processing and presentation web application.
- Led customization and development efforts on a SharePoint-based content management portal.

Cipher Systems | Applications Developer, Commercial | Aug 2005 - Aug 2006

- Drove development on the core ASP-based competitive intelligence platform, delivering next-generation components in ASP.NET while maintaining the existing product.

- Served as lead developer and technical contact for over a dozen clients across biotech, financial, and consumer products markets, tailoring the platform to specific needs and audiences.
- Built data extraction and processing tools in VB and C# to ingest content from diverse sources including e-mail, web pages, flat files, and XML, and to automate web application workflows.
- Served as DBE/DBA across SQL Server 2000/2005 environments, managing over three dozen active databases.
- Introduced an improved issue tracking system and new development components that expanded team capabilities and reduced implementation effort.

Corel, Inc | Systems Engineer | Oct 2001 - Aug 2005

- Continued client work following the Micrografx acquisition, maintaining relationships with existing customers from prior roles.
- Expanded involvement across all phases of the software development lifecycle—from requirements analysis through delivery—often serving as the technical lead and contact for the entirety of the client engagement.
- Designed and implemented solutions for commercial and government clients, combining software products and custom desktop and web application code, to automate user workflows.
- Supported the sales organization in developing new business through the creation of demos and participation in roadshows.

Micrografx, Inc | Solutions Engineer - Sep 1999 | Oct 2001

- Continued client work following the InterCAP acquisition, with increased involvement in initial requirements discovery and technical proposal development.
- Took a greater role in leading client engagements from a technical perspective, including being the lead developer, technical point of contact, and on-site integrator for key clients.
- Developed graphics software customizations to automate client workflows and extend the suite of technical drawing tools.
- Expanded scope beyond client work to support internal engineering operations, including the administration of core product revision control and change management systems, and the introduction of Visual SourceSafe for revision control of client projects.
- Built and maintained a client project intranet to gather and centralize requirements documents and demos.

InterCAP Graphics Systems | Solutions Engineer | Feb 1999 - Sep 1999

- Collaborated with senior developers to create graphics software customizations for integration into client flows.
- Led delivery on projects from the pre-sales group, requiring rapid onboarding to client engagements with minimal handoff.
- Supported pre-sales, sales, and customer service, touching multiple phases of the client lifecycle.

Skills

- Languages: Java, Python, Node.js, JavaScript, TypeScript, Groovy, Rust, C#, C++, VB/VBScript
- Databases: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MySQL, Oracle DB, Neo4j, SQL Server
- Frameworks/Libraries: PyTorch, FastAPI, React, Spring/Spring Boot, AngularJS, Grails, ASP.NET
- Servers/Middleware: NGINX, Gunicorn, Tomcat, Wildfly, Glassfish, Jetty
- Cloud/Ops: AWS, Docker, Jenkins, SonarQube, Akamai, DataDog, Splunk

Certifications

- CompTIA Network+ (2026 - Current)
- AWS Solutions Architect - Associate/Professional (2024 - Current)
- AWS SysOps Administrator - Associate (2023 - Current)
- AWS Developer - Associate (2025 - Current)

Education

- UMUC: B.S. Computer and Information Systems, Cum Laude