

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.

Prior Experience

- Career Break/Personal Development | N/A | Aug 2016 - Feb 2017
- PerfectJob/Sherpa.US | Full-Stack Developer | Nov 2015 - Aug 2016
- Effective Software Solutions, Inc | Principal Software Engineer | Nov 2014 - Nov 2015
- Raytheon FMO | Principal Software Engineer | Apr 2014 - Nov 2014
- Raytheon Henggeler Consulting | Senior Software Engineer | Feb 2011 - Apr 2014
- Henggeler Computer Consultants | Senior Software Engineer | Aug 2009 - Feb 2011
- Cipher Systems | Applications Developer, Government/Commercial | Aug 2005 - Aug 2009
- Corel, Inc | Systems Engineer | Oct 2001 - Aug 2005
- Micrografx, Inc | Solutions Engineer - Sep 1999 | Oct 2001
- InterCAP Graphics Systems | Solutions Engineer | Feb 1999 - Sep 1999

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, Unicorn, 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