

# MIKE DEVICH

## CTO / Head of Engineering

Hands-On · AI-Augmented Engineering · Platform Modernization

Atlanta, GA

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Engineering leader with 24+ years spanning IC, manager, and executive roles across high-scale media platforms and lean, multi-hat technology orgs. Equally comfortable setting technology strategy with a CEO, negotiating vendor contracts, mentoring engineering managers, or reading a pull request. Track record of modernizing platforms, cutting operational cost, and deploying AI to make small teams perform like larger ones.

## CORE EXPERTISE

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Executive Engineering Leadership · Hands-On Technical Contribution · AI-Augmented Development · Platform Modernization · Vendor & Budget Ownership · Product & Executive Partnership · Cloud & Kubernetes · Reliability Engineering · Leadership Development · Organizational Restructuring

## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

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- **Built and shipped** an internal Kubernetes cost-visibility tool that surfaces per-service spend and flags CPU/memory right-sizing opportunities — directly contributing to **\$800K** in annual infrastructure savings at iHeartMedia.
  - **Re-architected POLITICO's 2012 election platform** on AWS and Akamai; handled **54M page views in a single day** without incident — the largest single-day traffic in company history at the time.
  - **Re-architected caranddriver.com** on Vue.js and Nuxt; improved Google visibility **15%**, ad viewability **20%**, page load time **30%**.
  - **Drove 90%+ reduction** in production incidents at iHeartMedia through platform modernization, observability investment, and operational discipline.
  - **Scaled engineering** at Hearst Autos from 7 engineers to 40+ across engineering, architecture, DevOps, and scrum leadership.

## SELECTED TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT

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Kubernetes · AWS · GCP · BigQuery · MongoDB · Fastly · Akamai · React · Vue / Nuxt · Node.js · Python · CircleCI · New Relic · Datadog · PagerDuty · GitHub · JIRA · AI tooling: Claude, Cursor, GitHub Copilot, LM Studio

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**iHeartMedia** — *Remote*    *Nov 2020 – Present (5+ yrs)*

### **Senior Vice President, Engineering**

*Promoted from VP to SVP; report to the CTO. Own multiple backend engineering organizations responsible for the Kubernetes-based PaaS, 30+ applications and services, ~1,000 local radio station websites on a React platform, music and podcast ingestion pipelines, royalties systems, and the APIs powering web, mobile, automotive (CarPlay, Android Auto), and connected-device clients.*

- **Cut production incidents by 90%+** through platform modernization, observability investment (New Relic, PagerDuty), and stronger operational processes — protecting brand reputation and dramatically improving on-call quality of life for engineering and SRE.
- **Identified and led infrastructure optimization initiatives** that reduced annual operating costs by **\$800K** while improving performance and reliability.

- **Built an internal Kubernetes cost-visibility tool** that exposes per-service spend and surfaces CPU/memory right-sizing opportunities — directly contributing to the cost-reduction outcomes above and now used to inform platform decisions.
- **Prototyped an AI-powered Slack chatbot** for after-hours engineering support, reducing the load on on-call rotations.
- **Early adopter and internal advocate for AI-assisted engineering** — part of the initial leadership cohort piloting GitHub Copilot, Cursor, Claude, and local LLMs (LM Studio); advised peer leaders on tooling, workflow, and adoption strategy.
- **Led one of the first teams to integrate AI tooling into daily workflows** — **doubling team output** while increasing automated test coverage, establishing a model other teams have begun to replicate.
- **Remain technically hands-on:** analyze CDN traffic in BigQuery, contribute to architectural decisions, build internal tooling, and participate in code-level discussions across platform and application teams.
- **Own multi-million-dollar vendor portfolio** (MongoDB Atlas, Fastly, New Relic, PagerDuty, Beatdapp); drive contract negotiation, consolidation, and tooling strategy.
- **Mentor engineering managers and emerging leaders;** partner closely with Product and executive peers on technology vision, roadmap, and cross-functional execution.

**RedShelf** — Chicago, IL    Apr 2019 – Nov 2020 (1.5 yrs)

**Vice President, Engineering**

*Reported to the CEO and CTO. Led a 40-person engineering organization with 13 direct reports across Directors, Scrum Masters, and QA Engineers.*

- **Restructured product and engineering** organization and operating model to support rapid growth.
- **Transitioned an in-person engineering culture to fully remote** during the early COVID period without disrupting delivery.
- **Implemented career ladders and performance management** — clarifying expectations and surfacing leadership gaps.
- **Partnered with the CTO on QA and BDD rollout** — cut production defects **45%** and increased feature throughput **43%**.
- **Drove DEI initiatives** that grew female representation in the engineering org by **700%**.

**Hearst Autos / Car and Driver** — Atlanta, GA    Aug 2016 – Apr 2019 (2.5 yrs)

**Vice President, Engineering**

*Reported to the CEO. Owned engineering for Car and Driver and Veretech; primary technical partner to Product, SEO, Analytics, and Sales.*

- **Re-architected caranddriver.com** on Vue.js with Nuxt static generation — improved Google visibility **15%**, ad viewability **20%**, and page load times **30%**.
- **Drove enterprise Agile transformation;** scaled engineering from 7 to 40+ across engineering, architecture, DevOps, and scrum leadership.
- **Consolidated five proprietary CMS platforms down to two** — simplifying maintenance and editorial workflow.
- **Co-led migration from LAMP to a modern JavaScript stack** on AWS with an automated DevOps pipeline (Docker, ECS / Kubernetes, CircleCI, Slack-based deployment).
- **Hands-on contributor:** Fastly VCL changes, Ensign tag management, performance and load testing (Rigor, Blazemeter), Google Analytics debugging, SEO research and recommendations.

**New World Graphics** — Athens, GA Jul 2014 – Aug 2016 (2 yrs)

**Technology Manager**

Single technical leader for the company; reported to the President. Simultaneously held the responsibilities of CIO, product manager, project manager, DBA, web developer, network admin, and IT support — the prototype of a small-org technology executive.

- **Led end-to-end implementation of a company-wide ERP** (BlueCherry) in under one year — business process discovery, vendor coordination, configuration, and data migration off FileMaker.
- **Built internal software** for the sales team (image discovery and generation) and the EDI team (barcode generation and maintenance).
- **Drove operational throughput up 35%** and reduced chargebacks **65%** post-ERP launch.
- **Negotiated vendor contracts**; owned network infrastructure (Cisco Meraki), Windows server fleet (MSSQL, Exchange), backups, and marketing operations.

**POLITICO** — Arlington, VA Jul 2009 – Jul 2014 (5 yrs)

**Executive Director, Technology (2011 – 2014) · Director, Technology (2010 – 2011) · Senior Web Developer (2009 – 2010)**

Joined as a Senior Web Developer; promoted twice in two years to Executive Director. Led a 19-person technology org supporting four properties (POLITICO.com, POLITICOPro.com, WJLA.com, PowerJobs.com) across web, mobile, design, systems, and project management.

- **Re-architected POLITICO's 2012 election platform** on AWS with Akamai caching; handled **54M page views in a single day** with zero incident — the largest single-day traffic in company history.
- **Led three full site launches**, a CMS overhaul, multiple election cycles, and native mobile apps on iOS and Android.
- **Owned technology roadmap**, resourcing, vendor strategy, and cross-functional alignment with editorial, product, sales, and executive stakeholders.

**CyBerJaz Corp** — Aliquippa, PA May 2001 – Jul 2009 (8 yrs)

**Development Services Manager (2005 – 2009) · Lead Developer (2003 – 2005) · Web Developer (2001 – 2003)**

Progressed from web developer to development services manager over eight years. As manager, owned a team of 5, 60+ active projects, and 50+ client relationships across web apps, intranets, e-commerce, and custom CMS platforms; also owned hosting and 24/7 support.

- **Delivered a full e-commerce redesign for Value Drug Company in 10 days** with a team of three — doubled their sales and saved staff 10+ hours per week per employee.
- **Owned the full delivery surface**: technical sales, scoping, client management, hiring and coaching, server administration, and full-stack delivery.

## EDUCATION

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**Community College of Beaver County** — Associate of Science, Computer Information Systems & Telecommunications · 2001

President's List (Spring 2000) · Dean's List (Fall 2000) · Cisco Networking Academy · Transfer credits earned toward BS in CIS at Robert Morris University