

# Walker Smith

## Software Engineering Lead

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Software engineering leader with over ten years of experience specializing in distributed systems serving 2 billion customers and front-end architecture. Thrives on extreme ownership— across systems, teams, and outcomes. Drives strategy, aligns engineering with business goals, and cultivates high performing teams that ship with purpose.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### Senior Software Engineer

2021 – 2025

Microsoft

- Reduced content publication latency by 99%+ by leading the design and rollout of an event-driven system across five teams
- Improved Lighthouse scores from 48 to 100 and cut 5s off page load time by rearchitecting the platform with Incremental Static Regeneration, driving gains in SEO and user experience
- Led a team of six to develop AI-powered tooling, expanding content coverage and preserving Microsoft's voice and editorial standards, resulting in hundreds of uses within the first two weeks post-launch
- Scaled platform from hundreds to thousands of contributors by implementing governed, open contribution model
- Led 50 engineers, driving best practices and cultivating a culture of ownership, technical excellence, and continuous improvement through work-in-progress sessions
- Reduced rollbacks by 30% by architecting ephemeral environments, enabling full end-to-end testing across a distributed system
- Enabled unit testing for 44,000 previously untestable lines of code, covering 80% of core user flows, thereby enhancing the testability and reliability of flagship platform features
- Reduced CI duration 600%, saving approximately 1,300 developer hours annually, enhancing deployment speed, and accelerating feature delivery across engineering teams

#### Senior Software Engineer

2018 – 2021

digital.ai

- Eliminated week-long manual regression cycles across three teams, saving 90 engineering hours per release by implementing automated visual regression and end-to-end testing, boosting release confidence
- Coached teams across two products and served as subject matter expert in React, Redux, and front-end best practices, elevating core competencies to drive technical growth
- Unlocked hundreds of critical enterprise integrations used by over 50% of Fortune 500 by pioneering scalable webhooks feature

#### Software Engineer

2017 – 2018

smash.gg

- Transitioned company from in-person to online esports, re-positioning as market leader and unlocking high growth revenue stream by leading development of 'Event Check-in' feature
- Defined and established Software Engineer in Test role, hiring two engineers to automate critical user flows with Cypress, boosting product reliability
- Introduced and coached agile practices to 30-person team, enabling effective feature prioritization to meet major event deadlines and secure funding rounds
- Eliminated human error in Firebase security rules by introducing Bolt Compiler, automating critical security layer and enhancing system reliability and development workflows

Software Engineer

2014 – 2017

VersionOne

- Increased developer velocity by 15% by spearheading integration of React, Redux, Webpack, and LESS into Continuum product, modernizing the tech stack and streamlining workflows
- Reduced front-end development costs by 40% as core contributor to component library, streamlining development across two products
- Saved 3,000+ developer hours and boosted productivity by implementing hot module replacement

EDUCATION

<b>Columbus State University</b> — <i>M.S. Machine Learning</i>	Present
M.S. in Applied Computer Science: A.I.& Machine Learning Track Award	
<b>Columbus State University</b> — <i>B.S. Computer Science</i>	2014

PUBLICATIONS

“Deriving Entrepreneurial Insights from Open-Ended and Unstructured Survey Data Using NLP Techniques,” MDPI, November 2024

OPEN SOURCE & COMMUNITY

- Contributed to Cypress, JsonEditor, Kafdrop, VersonOne SDKs
- Presented at React ATL (4K+ member group) to an audience of 50+ engineers, covering functional programming and facilitating community-driven discussion
- Conducted a hands-on workshop on Redux at Connect.Tech, a major industry conference, training 50+ engineers in state management best practices and real-world application design

SKILLS

- Programming Languages: TypeScript, C#, Python
- Front-End Technologies: React, Next.js, GraphQL
- Cloud & Infrastructure: Azure, Kubernetes, Bicep, Docker, NGINX
- Messaging & Event Streaming: Azure Service Bus, RabbitMQ, Kafka
- Databases: SQL Server, Azure Cosmos DB, MongoDB
- Testing Frameworks: Cypress, Jest
- Version Control & CI/CD: Git, Azure DevOps, Github Actions
- Machine Learning: Azure OpenAI, pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, skfuzzy