

Nathan Thornton

Staff Software Engineer · Backend, Distributed Systems & Platform

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10 years building high-throughput backend systems and platform infrastructure. Scaled services from startup MVPs to 100M+ user platforms; led teams of 3–8 through org-wide migrations while staying hands-on in code.

CORE

Java · Go · Python · Kafka · PostgreSQL · Redis · gRPC · Kubernetes · AWS · Terraform · Microservices · Event-driven architecture · Observability · CI/CD

EXPERIENCE

Staff Software Engineer — Zephyr Commerce2022 – Present

- Own the order-processing platform (40+ services, 2B events/day); re-architected around Kafka, cutting p99 latency 85% and infra spend \$1.2M/yr
- Led the company-wide move to Kubernetes across 6 teams with zero-downtime cutovers
- Drive architecture reviews; mentor 5 senior engineers toward staff scope

Senior Software Engineer — Zephyr Commerce2019 – 2022

- Built the payments orchestration service in Go handling \$800M/yr across 12 providers
- Introduced contract testing and canary deploys, halving integration failures

Software Engineer II — DataBridge Analytics2017 – 2019

- Built streaming ingestion (Kafka/Spark) processing 500GB/day for the analytics product
- Cut warehouse query times 10x with partitioning and materialized-view strategy

Software Engineer — Finlytics2015 – 2017

- First engineering hire; built the core reporting API (Python/PostgreSQL) from scratch to 200 paying customers

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science — Purdue Trichy, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker, Kafka Summit 2024 · AWS Solutions Architect Pro · Maintainer, queuelite (2.1K ★)