Ronen Magid

Hands-on CTO • Startup Lifer • Technical Founder

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As a hands-on CTO with over 25 years of experience, I have honed a deep technical expertise in developing, implementing, and supporting complex infrastructures for fast-growing software startups across various industries. My career is a testament to my commitment to startups where I thrive on molding ideas into launched products and building balanced and performant dev teams locally and globally. I am adept at bringing order to chaos and clarity to nebulous concepts, fueled by a self-starting and motivated attitude.

My leadership skills are demonstrated through my effective management of day-to-day operations of geographically distributed teams. In 2017, I co-founded, built, and sold a background verification SaaS, showcasing my expertise in building and scaling cloud applications and leveraging AI in SaaS. My technical acumen extends to a broad spectrum of areas, including languages, platforms, cloud infrastructures, DevOps, scaling, security, technical forensics, compliance, video (FAST, OTT), tooling, and development methodologies.

I employ a polyglot approach and holistic expertise in all aspects of designing, architecting, implementing, deploying, scaling, and maintaining desktop, web, and mobile applications. This includes the use of the most up-to-date frameworks, methodologies, and orchestration/scaling technologies. Highly experienced in databases and massive search (over 1 billion documents), I am proficient in cloud providers like AWS, Google Cloud, and others.

Additionally, I excel at bridging the gap between engineering departments and non-technical stakeholders such as upper management, product groups, and sales, ensuring seamless communication and management of expectations.

Professional Experience

Love Stories TV, Inc. , New York City   January 2018 — December 2023
CTO

In early 2018, I embarked on a transformative journey with Love Stories TV, a wedding space marketplace and media company known for its web and TV presence, as their Chief Technology Officer. My role involved building their Software as a Service (SaaS) and Over-The-Top/Free Ad-Supported Streaming TV (OTT/FAST) products from the ground up. I took charge of assembling, training, and managing a diverse team of engineers and designers spread across different geographies, effectively bridging the gap between engineering and non-technical stakeholders such as product and sales teams.

During my tenure, I led a significant modernization effort of a pre-existing monolithic application by transitioning to modern languages and frameworks, enhancing both functionality and maintainability. My commitment to reliability was evident in our achievement of a remarkable 99.99% uptime over six years, underpinned by a scalable backend architecture that I designed and implemented.

Innovating in the realm of artificial intelligence, I incorporated AI technologies to analyze video content, which enabled the automated creation of a variety of wedding-related TV show episodes. This not only streamlined production but also enriched the content offering. My hands-on approach in software development was balanced with managing and mentoring the engineering team, fostering a culture of growth and excellence.

Another notable accomplishment was the creation of an automated TV content generation system. This system leveraged AI and industry-standard video encoding tools to transform raw materials into polished TV content, revolutionizing the way we produced and delivered media. Additionally, I was responsible for managing the technical relationships and integrations with numerous OTT/FAST TV streamers, including industry giants like Samsung, TCL, and FreeVee. This role required a nuanced understanding of different platforms and the ability to deliver seamless integration across diverse streaming services.

Opus.me, New York City   June 2015 — July 2017
CTO/Co-Founder

As the technical Co-founder of Opus.me, an automated background verification Software as a Service (SaaS), I was instrumental in driving the company's vision and transforming it from a mere idea into a fully deployed product. My role encompassed leading the architecture, recruiting, development, DevOps, automation, and the daily management of a diverse team of U.S. and offshore developers. I was responsible for the creation of a robust background verification platform, designed to compete with industry leaders like Checkr. My duties also included managing the interface with countless data sources, ensuring seamless integration and functionality. This dedication and strategic direction contributed to the successful acquisition of Opus.me by SmartScreen in 2017, marking a significant milestone in the company's journey and highlighting the effectiveness of our solutions in the market.

VIDYO INC., Hackensack, NJ June 2010 — September 2014
Engineering Manager

In my role at Vidyo, a premier provider of video conferencing technology, I was entrusted with the crucial responsibility of driving the vision and leadership for the development and launch of the next-generation VidyoDesktop product. My position was pivotal in shaping the strategy, assembling a competent team, and crafting solutions that converged three distinct codebases—Objective C, C, and C++—into a single, unified C++ codebase. This strategic move significantly accelerated the introduction of new features to the market, reduced operational costs, and resolved existing technical issues. My management responsibilities extended to a team of four engineers, where I employed an effective combination of onshore and offshore delivery models. Additionally, I played an integral role as the liaison between the engineering team and the product group.

I successfully managed the entire lifecycle of the next-generation flagship VideoDesktop 3.0 product, designed for MacOS, Windows, and Linux platforms, which is utilized daily by millions of users worldwide. Notably, I spearheaded the turnaround of a critical project by establishing new Area Leaders, integrating automation into the build and release processes, and adopting an Agile methodology. These efforts culminated in the triumphant launch of this revolutionary video conferencing product.

My tenure at Vidyo was marked by several significant achievements, including the introduction and implementation of a User-Centric Design approach for the User Interface, which notably enhanced user satisfaction and boosted revenue generation. I was responsible for designing an architecture that optimized the user experience for MacOS and Windows users.

Furthermore, I championed the development and integration of an innovative automated branding subsystem, allowing non-technical resources to brand the VideoDesktop product effortlessly. I also guided the team in adopting the Branded Manifest architectural model, which eliminated the need for system customization for each brand, significantly streamlining the whitelabeling process.

Investment Technology Group, New York City September 2007 — February 2010
Development Manager

At Investment Technology Group, Inc., a multinational agency brokerage and financial markets technology firm based in the United States, I was entrusted with a key role focusing on the hedge fund and asset management sector. My responsibilities included overseeing the rapid, full lifecycle design and release of critical enhancements for an Algo plugin integral to the company's core Trading Platform. This platform was extensively used by trading desks across the United States, Canada, the European Union, and Hong Kong, playing a vital role in executing trades. I demonstrated leadership and technical expertise in aligning the product with the ever-evolving needs of traders on a global scale.

Additionally, I introduced a range of tools, standards, and best practices that significantly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of new functionality rollouts during weekly releases.

In my capacity as a development manager, I successfully led a team of five software engineers within the Algorithmic Trading User Interface Group. My role involved close collaboration with back-end algorithmic trading teams to establish and refine communication standards. Notably, I was instrumental in revitalizing a large-scale project that was on the verge of cancellation following the departure of the previous manager.

My leadership was pivotal in mobilizing the team and driving the delivery of a successful product, which played a crucial role in enabling global trading desks to optimize execution quality and improve overall trading performance. Furthermore, my initiative in developing an automated product release system resulted in significant cost savings and improved efficiency, a system that was later adopted by other teams within the organization.

Crestron Electronics, Inc., Rockleigh, NY   April 2006 — September 2007
Engineering Lead (Contract)

At Crestron Electronics, a multinational corporation renowned for its specialization in control automation and integration technology, I spearheaded a major technological transformation. My role involved leading the migration of legacy software systems to modern .NET and C# technologies, a pivotal move for this esteemed manufacturer of home automation and audio/video control systems. My efforts were further highlighted by the design of a new software architecture, which successfully addressed a long-standing engineering challenge within the company. This innovative design not only enhanced the efficiency of our development processes but also significantly reduced both the time and costs associated with development and release by an impressive 50%. My contributions at Crestron Electronics mark a period of substantial technological advancement and efficiency improvement, setting new standards in the industry.

SCENTRIC, INC., Duluth, GA   August 2004 — January 2006
Engineering Manager

At Scentric, an innovative startup based in Atlanta operating in the smart SAN management space, I played a pivotal role in spearheading the rapid development of the company's initial Storage Area Management product. My primary responsibility was to manage and facilitate the creation of a software solution that would empower enterprises to effectively catalog, classify, and control data across extensive storage tiers. To achieve this, I successfully built and led a dynamic team of nine, comprising both onshore and offshore talent, guiding them through the entire lifecycle of delivering this groundbreaking product.

My leadership was instrumental in enabling the enterprise to significantly reduce costs and enhance the accessibility of crucial data. One of my key contributions was defining the architecture that laid the foundation for a working prototype to be developed within just a few months. My involvement extended to designing and developing various critical components of the product, including light-weight multi-threaded agent services, a plug-in based communications framework, an extensible layered job framework, and a comprehensive enterprise-level data cataloging system.

In addition to these technical achievements, I also took the initiative to prepare patent submission documents for the core technologies that we developed, ensuring the protection and recognition of our innovative work. My role required me to adeptly manage the efforts of a geographically dispersed team, which was a crucial factor in our success in building this new Storage Area Management product. My tenure at Scentric was marked by a blend of technical acumen, strategic leadership, and a deep commitment to innovation in the field of data management.

Tom Sawyer Software, Berkeley, CA   April 2000 — July 2004
Engineering Manager

At Tom Sawyer Software, a world leader in graph visualization and analysis since its inception in 1992, I held a pivotal role in the successful release of three versions of the company's award-winning Graphic Editor Toolkit. This toolkit is widely used by software companies to incorporate graph visualization and analysis features into their applications.

My responsibilities included leading a globally distributed team of five through the complete product lifecycle, encompassing requirement gathering, design, development, debugging, testing, documentation, release/build engineering, and shipping.

I also managed the rewrite and development of the next-generation Graphic Editor Toolkit, which significantly enhanced stability and performance while meeting the evolving needs of our development customers.

My contributions included introducing new technology, overseeing the creation of new modules, and updating the User Interface to enhance network visualization capabilities. In addition to these responsibilities, I provided technical expertise at client sites across the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, designing solutions to address complex challenges.

Education

Bachelor of Science
Tel-Aviv University

Tech Stack & Expertise

- SaaS Architecture
- Engineering Management
- Hands on languages/platforms
- Local/Remote Teams Management
- Scalable Backend Design
- Compliance & Security Audits
- Hands-On Coding
- ML
- Kubernetes
- NodeJS
- C
- Wordpress
- Postgres
- Security, Auditing, Forensice
- Windows Desktop Application Development
- Git
- Circle CI
- CRM Integration
- Transactional Emails Gateways (Sendgrid, Mandrill, etc.)
- Lexis-Nexis Integration
- Mentoring Junior Engineers
- Real Time Production Monitoring
- MongoDB
- CloudFront

- Cloud Computing
- Scrum/Agile
- Polyglot Development
- UI/UX Design
- Microservices Architecture
- Data-Breach Contingency Plans
- Conflict Resolution
- Deep Learning
- Javascript
- NextJS
- C++
- SQL
- Database Design
- Bash Scripting
- Linux
- GitActions
- Jenkins
- Slack Application Development
- FinTech Software Development
- Mobile Development
- Yarn
- NewRelic
- Redis

- AI
- DevOps/Scaling
- Mentoring/Training of Engineers
- Rapid Prototyping
- Incident/Issue Forensics
- Security & Loss-Prevention
- Team Development and Empowerment
- Python
- Typescript
- NestJS
- PHP
- Elasticsearch
- Auto-Scaling
- Mac Desktop Application Development
- DevOps
- Jira
- Product UX/UI Design
- Hubspot
- Plaid, MX Integration
- Cross Platform Development
- NPM
- Confluence
- RabbitMQ