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Edward Quesada Earley

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WHO I AM

Engineering executive with 25+ years building and transforming high-performance organizations — from 0→1 platform builds at startups to FAANG-scale infrastructure at Meta and AWS. Track record of delivering tens of millions in cost savings, scaling teams from single digits to 100+, and driving cultural transformation through AI-native engineering, platform modernization, and disciplined execution. Operates at executive and technical levels across distributed systems, platform engineering, and organizational design.

My best work sits at the intersection of leadership, transformation, and architecture — hybrid roles that demand both strategic vision and the ability to get into the trenches. I have deep experience building high-performance teams from scratch, transforming broken organizations, and owning product strategy at every stage: bootstrapped startup, venture-backed growth, and mature multinational.

I favor lightweight process, open source technology, and Conway's Law as an organizational design principle. Core focus areas: JVM/distributed systems, Kubernetes, platform engineering, SRE/DevOps, AI-native operations, and Big Data/ML infrastructure.

SKILL SETS

Java/JVM	Microservices and large-scale distributed systems; Spring/Netflix OSS, Dropwizard; POCs in Scala, Kotlin, Go, Clojure
DevOps	Kubernetes, Docker, Terraform, GitOps, Flux, EKS, Helm
CI/CD	Codefresh, Jenkins, GitLab, Spinnaker, Gradle, Maven, Artifactory, Git
Big Data	Snowflake, Kafka, Airflow, Aurora/RDS, most RDBMS
Architecture	Microservices, Distributed Systems, Reactive, Highly Available
Hosting	AWS, Digital Ocean, GCP, Azure
Process	Agile (Kanban, Scrum, Scrumban); process as a tactic for iterative value delivery
Teams	High-performance teams from scratch; small cross-functional startup teams; large globally distributed orgs

EXPERIENCE

Meta

Production Engineering Manager

August 2025 – Present

- Lead multiple Production Engineering teams responsible for data and storage infrastructure powering Meta Ads.
- Operate in a PM-less model by driving problem framing, roadmap trade-offs, and execution priorities across engineering and infrastructure partners.
- Own end-to-end delivery of large-scale reliability, performance, and efficiency initiatives for Ads-critical distributed systems.

- Manage and develop high-performing production engineers, reinforcing strong ownership, operational excellence, and continuous improvement.
- Partner cross-functionally to align technical investments with business outcomes and measurable platform impact.

Amazon / AWS

July 2020 – August 2025

Engineering Manager, AWS Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS)

April 2024 – August 2025

- Owner of [EKS Addons](#), [EKSCTL](#), [ACK](#), and [KRO](#) (Kube Resource Orchestrator).
- Teams own core pieces of the EKS customer experience: how customers install and use any addon on EKS, across open-source and AWS-owned addons.
- Own an AI-based Infrastructure-as-Code solution built into Kubernetes and EKS, spanning ACK, KRO, and new product development.

Engineering Manager, AWS Managed Grafana

May 2022 – April 2024

- Single-threaded owner of Amazon Managed Grafana end-to-end; part of the AWS Open Source Observability stack.
- Led delivery of Custom Plugins support for re:Invent 2023.
- Led delivery of new ECS/Fargate DataPlane for re:Invent 2022.
- Created standard project and program mechanisms adopted across the org.
- Built a new S3 line-of-business team in Austin from 1 to 9 engineers in one quarter.

Engineering Manager, AWS S3

July 2020 – March 2021

- Built and led Ignite, a high-performance S3 innovation team with 4 concurrent workstreams: S3 Primitives, S3 BigData (Citadel), S3 SecOps (Mechanic), and S3 Network Architecture (ONAC).
- Mechanic team eliminated the need for SSH access to production environments; reduced SSH access by 90% in 4 months.

- Citadel shipped S3's first worldwide real-time hardware failure reporting engine — baseline technology for ML and predictive analytics across S3 fleets.
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Wayfair

Associate Director

July 2021 – April 2022

- Org of 30 reports, 3 managers, 6+ senior ICs. Launched a program making Engineering Leadership own hiring outcomes; on-boarded 7 engineers in under 2 months across 2 continents.
 - Identified JVM as Wayfair's growth area; built the org from 1 FT engineer to a fully staffed 10-person team with dedicated EMs in EU and US, supporting 300+ tier-1 and tier-2 services.
 - Created a 3-person Apache Flink team for event-based services; shipped Flink across Wayfair Engineering.
 - Built a team to own and curate base Docker images and Helm charts running ~900 production GKE services.
 - Introduced OKR and MBR reporting structure now replicated at parent org level.
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Otus

Chief Architect & Chief Data Officer

November 2018 – July 2020

- Led a full company transformation to data and platform technologies as both IC and exec.
 - Delivered first-generation Data Analytics Platform on time, on budget with a brand-new team in 5 months.
 - Doubled engineering size in first 6 weeks without an internal recruiter.
 - Built GitOps-based Kubernetes platform with CI/CD (Codefresh, Flux, EKS); migrated lower environments to new AWS accounts using Terraform.
 - Took company to [12th Best Small Company to Work For in Chicago \(2019\)](#).
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SpotHero

VP Engineering

December 2016 – November 2018

- Owned and executed a 2-year transformation plan across all of engineering: process, people, architecture, and culture.
 - Scaled the platform from an early-stage marketplace architecture to enterprise-ready infrastructure — 100x increase in technical delivery capacity and 10,000x growth in transactional throughput — in 2 years, on budget.
 - Defined architecture and vision for modern platform: Java, Kubernetes, Kafka.
 - Built the Shared Services division from scratch: Data, Search, Developer Tools, and APIs teams.
 - Doubled engineering division size without a dedicated recruiter.
 - Created and managed first engineering budget; came in on target.
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Uptake

Director, Engineering

July 2016 – December 2016

- Technical director across Data Engineering, API Gateway, Security Engineering, DevOps, and Streaming Data teams.
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WMS Industries / Scientific Games

CTO → Software Engineer

January 2009 – June 2016

Walked in as a software engineer; walked out as CTO.

- Built multiple award-winning platforms (Players Life, Play4Fun Network/SGUniverse) that transformed the US gaming industry.
- Re-architected a heavily distributed, debt-laden platform using PaaS, microservices, and the Strangler pattern.

- Architected and built a cloud-native AWS platform in Python that served as a low-end disruptor in B2B social casino gaming; became market leader on track for \$30M revenue in 2018 with a 5-person founding team.
 - Solely designed and wrote an industry-changing Java-based web services platform connected to 1,000+ slot machines across North America.
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EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Master of Arts — Social Sciences (Interdisciplinary) · 1996–1998

Thesis: [Mexican Intellectual and Cultural History](#) · GPA 3.7/4.0

University of Illinois at Chicago

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude — Latin American Studies (Interdisciplinary) · 1990–1993

GPA 4.6/5.0 · Academic Merit Award · Dean's List

PATENTS (GRANTED)

- Player initiated multi-player games — US 20140038709 A1
- Jurisdictional control in a wagering game system plugin architecture — US 8662992 B2
- Messaging to and from wagering game machines — US 9251648 B2
- Mobile applications and wagering game machines — US 9235953 B2

AWARDS

- 2011 — 1st Place, Player's Life, Casino Enterprise Management's Annual "Slot Floor Technology Awards"
- 2011 — Platinum Award, Player's Life, Casino Journal's "Top 20 Most Innovative Gaming Technology Products"
- 2011 — American Business Awards "Stevie", New Product or Service of the Year — Media & Entertainment
- 2013 — Best Consumer Service Technology, "Play4Fun Network," Global Gaming Business Awards

- 2014 — Top 20 Most Innovative Gaming Technology Products, “Play4Fun Network,” Casino Journal
- 2015 — eGR North America Awards Freeplay Gaming Supplier, SG Universe “Play4Fun Network”
- 2019 — Otus ranked 12th [Best Small Company to Work For in Chicago](#)

LANGUAGES & INTERESTS

Spanish, some French, some Ancient Greek

Music, cinema, literature, social sciences, humanities, art, running, biking, yoga, travel

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