Branwen Okafor-Hale

Software Architect

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SUMMARY

Software architect with 9 years designing distributed systems for logistics and payments platforms, working mainly in Java, Go and AWS. Led the move from a monolith to 14 services that cut deploy time from 3 hours to 20 minutes, and designed the event-sourcing core now handling 40M transactions a month. Known for writing tradeoffs down before a line of code ships.

EXPERIENCE

Software Architect — Ferrowall Logistics

Denver, CO · Apr 2022 – Present

- Led the decomposition of a 12-year-old monolith into 14 services, choosing a strangler-fig migration over a rewrite to keep shipping features; cut deploy time from 3 hours to 20 minutes with zero rollback incidents.
- Designed an event-sourced order pipeline on Kafka and Postgres that now processes 40M transactions a month, replacing a polling job that had caused 6 missed-shipment incidents the prior year.
- Chose a shared PostgreSQL schema with strict service boundaries over separate databases per service, judging the team's size too small yet for the operational cost; revisited the call in a written ADR reviewed by 18 engineers.
- Set the API contract and versioning policy across 14 services, cutting breaking-change incidents reported by downstream teams from 9 a quarter to 1.
- Ran architecture review for every project over 2 weeks of estimated work, catching 11 designs that would have created single points of failure before implementation started.

Staff Software Engineer — Caldbrook Payments

Denver, CO · Aug 2019 – Mar 2022

- Designed the idempotency and retry layer for the payment-processing core, cutting duplicate charges reported by support from 45 a month to under 2.
- Proposed and built a read-replica strategy for the reporting database after a dashboard query had locked the primary during a sale event; the fix removed that class of incident entirely.
- Wrote the architecture decision record comparing gRPC and REST for internal service calls, and led adoption of gRPC across 8 services for its lower latency under load.
- Mentored 5 engineers through their first system design docs, with 4 later promoted to senior engineer.

SKILLS

Languages: Java, Go, TypeScript, Python

Architecture: Event-driven design, domain-driven design, microservices, CQRS, API design

Infrastructure: AWS (ECS, Lambda, RDS, SQS), Kubernetes, Terraform, Kafka

Practice: Architecture decision records, capacity planning, threat modeling, code and design review

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional, 2022

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, Colorado School of Mines, 2014

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