

John Willis

Distinguished Engineer

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SUMMARY

11+ years driving platform architecture and technical strategy at early-stage and growth startups. Track record of building foundational systems that scale across teams and products — from integration platforms serving 90+ connectors to detection engines processing millions of events. Combines deep technical ownership with cross-functional influence, mentoring senior engineers and setting architecture direction in service of org-wide velocity and reliability.

EXPERIENCE

Rewst — Remote

Distinguished Software Engineer

Principal Software Engineer → Director of Engineering → Distinguished Software Engineer

Dec 2021 – Present

Robotic Process Automation platform purpose-built for Managed Service Providers. Joined as one of the first five developers (employee #9) and helped build the platform from earliest production through Series C scale.

- Designed and owned the integration abstraction layer that enabled scale to 90+ third-party integrations; standardized patterns eliminated per-vendor snowflakes and unblocked parallel team execution
- Architected the Crates system for reusable automation assets, creating a product ecosystem that improved customer time-to-value and enabled multi-region asset replication
- Drove applied AI strategy from prototype to production, embedding LLM capabilities into workflows with guardrails; influenced roadmap for RoboRewsty AI assistant
- Set architecture direction across platform teams; mentored senior engineers on system design and operational safety patterns

TypeScript

Python

React

Node.js

PostgreSQL

Redis

Docker

Kubernetes

AWS

OpenAI

Claude

Auth0

Kafka

RabbitMQ

Raft — Remote

Solutions Architect

Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

Government technology consulting specializing in digital transformation and federal compliance platforms. Built production systems with FedRAMP authorization for HHS, Air Force, and Space Force.

- Delivered TANF Data Portal with FedRAMP-compliant identity (Login.gov, PIV), simplifying federal reporting workflows used by all states and territories
- Architected data fabric platform federating Kafka, Trino, and OpenSearch across legacy government sources with role-based access controls
- Built real-time flight tracking system for FAA with strict operational reliability and deployment constraints in joint Air Force engagement



Perch Security (Acquired by ConnectWise) – Tampa, Florida

Lead SIEM Developer

Senior Full Stack Developer → Lead SIEM Developer

Jan 2019 – Jan 2021

Cybersecurity Threat Intel / SIEM platform with a managed Security Operations Center (SOC) focused on MSPs. Core developer from startup through successful acquisition.

- Owned the detection and correlation engine (Event Notifications) powering SOC analyst workflows; built AI/ML anomaly detection before modern LLM tooling existed
- Designed cloud ingestion framework normalizing events from Office 365, ConnectWise, SentinelOne, and Webroot — critical path for SOC alert quality
- Built audit infrastructure enabling compliance reporting and forensic investigation across the platform



Genitrust (Wall of Coins) – Sarasota, Florida

Senior Software Developer

Feb 2018 – Jan 2019

Peer-to-peer cryptocurrency exchange enabling fiat-to-crypto transactions.

- Achieved 10x performance improvement on core purchase flow, directly improving user retention on the primary revenue path
- Built unified blockchain integration layer across Bitcoin, Ethereum, and 6+ altcoins with transaction correctness guarantees
- Developed cold storage tooling for secure offline signing, reducing operational risk for fund management



Impulse Point (Acquired by OPSWAT) – Tampa / Lakeland, Florida

Associate Software Engineer

Systems Engineer → DevOps Engineer → Associate Software Engineer

Jun 2015 – Feb 2018

Network Access Control (NAC) cybersecurity company. Progressed from infrastructure to full-stack development.

- Built fleet automation enabling safe OS upgrades across hundreds of customer servers with Ansible-based rollouts
- Migrated monitoring infrastructure to AWS with Salesforce integration, operationalizing incident response workflows
- Contributed to core NAC product (now MetaDefender Core), bridging infrastructure knowledge into product development

Java

Spring

Python

AngularJS

MySQL

Ansible

AWS

Azure

VMware

Nagios

Docker

FREELANCE & CONSULTING

Emery Ventures – Chief Software Architect (2017–2020)

Delivered complete e-learning platform and published mobile apps to App Store and Google Play for American Sign Language education startup.

Node.js

Swift

Kotlin

Firebase

AWS

Ringling Museum – Developer

Built financial journal automation suite (React Native mobile + Electron desktop) for FSU accounting workflow integration.

React Native

Electron

React

REO Close – Developer

Real estate investment platform with JAMstack architecture, perfect Lighthouse scores, and serverless lead generation.

Gatsby

React

GraphQL

Netlify

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Go, Java, Kotlin, Swift, Bash

Platform & Cloud: AWS, Kubernetes, Docker, Terraform, Ansible, GitHub Actions

Data & Streaming: PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch, Redis, Kafka, RabbitMQ, Trino

Backend: Django, FastAPI, Express, GraphQL, Spring

Frontend: React, Next.js, React Native, Electron

AI & LLM: Claude, OpenAI, production guardrails, agent orchestration

Security & Auth: Auth0, OAuth, Login.gov, PIV, FedRAMP compliance

EDUCATION

Southern New Hampshire University – Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Technology

South Florida State College – Associate of Arts, General Engineering

HONORS & ACTIVITIES

- 3.5 Combined Undergraduate GPA
 - Cum Laude Honors, South Florida State College
 - Duke University Talent Identification Program
 - Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
 - Southern Technical College Program Advisory Committee Member
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References available upon request