

Jennifer "Jenn" Strater

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📁 Professional Experience

📍 Target, Brooklyn Park, MN

KAFKA SCHEMA MANAGEMENT (FEBRUARY 2025 - PRESENT)

- Leads efforts to improve data quality with schemas.
- Manages a platform for transferring Kafka data into Iceberg tables.

Technologies: Kafka, Kotlin, Ktor, Kafka Connect, Iceberg, Parquet, Confluent Schema Registry, Protovalidate, Protocol Buffers(Protobuf)

KAFKA EXPERIENCE TEAM (APRIL 2023 - FEB 2025)

Contributed to APIs for self-managed Kafka.

Technologies: Spring Boot, Micronaut, Kotlin, Kafka

PRIVATE CLOUD (MARCH 2022 - APRIL 2023)

Technologies: Ratpack, Groovy, JVM, Golang, Static Analysis

HAWKEYE LOYALTY MESSAGING (JUNE 2021 - MARCH 2022)

Member of a small team maintaining 30+ microservices and hundreds of batch jobs that pipe targeted and/or personalized marketing messaging to various platforms (email, SMS, push) on a large scale. Microservices are Java with Spring Boot and batch jobs use Scala with Spark. Database technologies include Cassandra, PostgreSQL, and Hive.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- moved common code across 30+ projects into 10 libraries
- established Gradle, Vela (CI), Artifactory release pipeline for libraries
- upgraded 30+ microservices and libraries to Gradle 7 and Spring Boot 2.6
- added dependency scanning and other security tooling to CI/CD pipeline
- setup a staging environment including configuring clusters, database tables, and throttling for incoming Kafka messages
- enhanced observability by adding more metrics and graphs in Grafana

✓ Joe Biden for President, Remote

JUNE 2020 - NOVEMBER 2020

- enabled the 50k+ volunteers nationwide and 20k+ in battleground states to send millions of text messages per day
- constrained by integration tools with 1rps rate limit, still managed to handle 7rps spikes in a system built with Ratpack, Groovy, Redis, Caffeine, Dropwizard, and more
- transformed 5+ GB CSV files from vendors into s3 and spectrum tables
- created slack bots to integrate with texting program security
- performed website QA especially a11y and i18n
- improved build performance and security with CodeKit, npm, and Gradle

⚙️ Gradle, Remote EU & Remote US

OCTOBER 2018 - MAY 2020

DEVELOPER ADVOCATE

- wrote Java and Groovy-based POCs for Gradle and Gradle Enterprise features using both the Groovy and Kotlin Gradle DSLs
- maintained the infrastructure for various documentation projects using AsciiDoc, Jekyll, Gradle, GitHub Pages, TeamCity, IntelliJ Idea, and more
- acted as an intermediary between the millions of Gradle developers and Gradle's engineering teams including basic support, providing references to the relevant documentation, and escalating as needed
- Promoted Gradle as a thought leader in Developer Productivity

DEVELOPER ADVOCACY TEAM LEAD, MAY 2019 TO MAY 2020

- set long-term strategy with upper-level management
- led collaborative projects with engineering, marketing, and sales
- managed the event and content strategy for advocacy topics
- reviewed content and code for Developer Advocacy and other teams

Zenjob, Berlin, Germany

SENIOR ENGINEER, JUNE 2017 - SEPTEMBER 2018

- maintained a Grails-based internal admin dashboard to monitor millions of transactions per day
- added static analysis and code coverage tooling into the build pipeline increasing stability and reducing bugs in the codebase
- architected and implemented backend APIs
- led the project and completed a majority of the work for a Grails 3.0.17 to 3.3.6 migration. This included updates to the relevant dependencies and build tools.
- was responsible for various leadership tasks related to
 - hiring and recruiting
 - improving development processes
 - mentoring working students
 - training developers new to Groovy, Grails, and Gradle

Object Partners, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, USA

SENIOR CONSULTANT, MARCH 2015 - AUGUST 2016

Client: Peoplenet

Altegra Health, Minneapolis, MN, USA

SOFTWARE ENGINEER, JUNE 2013 - FEBRUARY 2016

Group DCA, Parsippany, NJ, USA

WEB DEVELOPER, JANUARY 2012 - MAY 2013

Education

Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM, AUGUST 2016 - MAY 2017

Hamilton College, Clinton, NY

BACHELOR'S DEGREE, COMPLETED DECEMBER 2011

concentration in computer science

Books

97 Things Every Java Programmer Should Know

- Builds Don't Have To Be Slow and Unreliable

- Only Build the Parts That Change and Reuse the Rest
- Open Source Projects Aren't Magic

Honors & Awards

- Participant of PANDA Women Leadership Contest 2018
- 2016-2017 Fulbright US Student Program in Denmark

Community Work

- Owner of the Groovy Community Slack
- Crew/Committee member for various developer conferences
- Open Source Contributions to Codenarc rules, Spring REST Docs examples, Groovy docs, Gradle docs, guides, and various plugins