



# Christopher Thomas

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

## Profile

Engineering leader with 10+ years building scalable data platforms, leading high-impact cloud transformations, and architecting key modernization outcomes. Proven track record delivering enterprise-wide data strategies, modernizing legacy systems, and leading cross-functional teams toward a shared vision. Experienced in building scalable Lakehouse architecture, real-time pipelines, and developer platforms on AWS. Passionate about leveraging data to drive product innovation and business outcomes while building and mentoring high-performing teams that thrive in ambiguity and innovation-driven cultures

## Employment History

### Engineering Manager, Telematics

NOV 2024 – PRESENT

- Partnered with stakeholders across departments to uncover key pain points and led the development of a data strategy that addressed immediate needs while setting a visionary path for data-driven Telematics usage using modern Lakehouse architecture
- Crafted and executed an engineering strategy that championed resilience, observability, DevEx, and adoption of GenAI to scale best practices and engineer efficiency
- Directed the cloud transformation of 30+ applications to an AWS/Kubernetes platform, cutting on-premise dependency and achieving \$10M in operational savings.
- Drove the strategic assessment and onboarding of a commercial auto telematics vendor, enabling a two-path adoption model that expanded customer choice and accelerated rollout.

### Engineering Manager, PCAF Cloud Enablement

JUN 2022 – NOV 2024

- Secured VP-level alignment to create a suite for AWS Cloud Enablement in support of over 150 agile teams to build a developer experience that accelerated developer onboarding by 70%
- Established partnerships with Enterprise areas to influence direction of Cloud Adoption including creation of golden path templates
- Championed the adoption of the Cloud Multi-Tenant strategy as a standard way of administering AWS accounts across major areas by sharing inner sourced multi-tenant module with over 900 tenants across State Farm
- Facilitated significant growth in the area Cloud Enablement through the use of automated solutions from managing 3 accounts and 50 tenants to managing 14 accounts and over 170 tenants

### Architecture Manager, PCAF Data and Common Services

SEPT 2020 – JUN 2022

- Architected and influenced leadership on key blocking concepts including schema management, data quality, data lineage, data governance, and SRE adoption with successful implementation of downstream data analytical flow for largest modernization effort in State Farm history
- Unified leadership consensus across 4 areas and 10+ teams to align modernization priorities and architecture

## Details

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## Links

[therealchristhomas.com](http://therealchristhomas.com)

## Skills

Decision Making

Problem Solving

Leadership

Adaptability

Communication

Agile Methodologies

Node.js

DevSecOps

Amazon AWS

Terraform

Apache Spark

Python

Containers

Kubernetes

React

- Cultivated a vision for more consistent and reusable architecture in the downstream P&C analytical flow and partnered with peers across product suites to make into a reality with the use of reusable Spark jobs and Data SDKs to ease consumption of data
- Used my Enterprise knowledge and network to find the right area to help partner on Databricks proof of concept for long term Lakehouse architecture shift
- Direct manager of 14 reports including internal and external associates while mentoring other managers on their team's personnel and backlog
- As an Architecture Manager, implemented suite level product roadmaps and priorities utilizing product management and agile principles to drive work

### **Senior Technology Engineer, P&C Aspirational, Labs @ State Farm**

SEPT 2019 – SEPT 2020

- Successfully partnered with scouting team to bring vendors to State Farm to help with business needs including feature store start up, Tecton, for our machine learning and modeling use cases
- Collaborated with business partners and agile teams to create and implement the vision of a machine learning model orchestration platform across core modernization effort
- Partnered with other engineers in Labs and across the Enterprise to introduce event-driven analytics to support model training and development for operational use cases using Kubernetes, Kinesis, EMR/Spark, and Lambda.
- Cultivated relationships with business partners to help create trust and ultimately get buy in for major changes to their existing products to help create a better, faster experience

### **AWS/Big Data Solutions Architect, P&C Aspirational, Labs @ State Farm**

SEPT 2018 – AUG 2019

- Led, designed, and implemented major infrastructure migration to AWS and introduced the first production AWS account at State Farm
- Spearheaded the adoption of Infrastructure as Code management via Terraform
- Designed implementation of Datomic in Kubernetes
- Designed and implemented EMR with Jupyterhub at scale for enterprise departments

### **Senior Hadoop/DevOps Software Engineer, Product Solutions**

JAN 2016 – AUG 2018

- Led and mentored peers in Spark/Hadoop Development and Enablement for 90+ person project
- Enabled scalable CI/CD capabilities by implementing GitLab CI and Jenkins pipelines scripted in Groovy
- Led adoption of Docker and container orchestration to modernize application delivery and operations.

### **Automated Logistic Specialist, The United States Army Reserve**

APR 2010 – APR 2018

- Accountable for millions of dollars worth of Army equipment
- Led soldiers as part of a squad to ensure battle readiness
- Developed Leadership Skills through Army training

## **Education**

### **Bachelors of Information Technology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN**

JAN 2012 – DEC 2015