

Dana Whitfield

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SUMMARY

Engineering manager with 14 years in software, 7 of them leading teams. Manages 3 teams (22 engineers) building payments and fraud systems. Hires well, ships on time, and keeps engineers for a long time.

EXPERIENCE

2021 to present **Engineering Manager, Payments**

Lakefront Financial, Chicago, IL

- Lead 3 teams and 22 engineers across payments, fraud and ledger services handling \$9B a year.
- Hired 15 engineers in 3 years; team attrition 5% a year against a company average of 14%.
- Delivered the real-time fraud scoring service that cut chargebacks by 27% in its first year.
- Set the quarterly planning process now used by 9 teams in the division.

2017 to 2021 **Senior Software Engineer, then Tech Lead**

Lakefront Financial, Chicago, IL

- Led the ledger rewrite (6 engineers, 11 months) with zero reconciliation incidents after launch.
- Mentored 4 engineers to senior.

2014 to 2017 **Software Engineer**

Prairie Systems, Chicago, IL

- Built the settlement batch system (Java, Postgres) that processes 2M transactions a night.

SKILLS

Leadership: hiring, performance reviews, planning, budgeting, vendor management

Technical: Java, Kotlin, Go, PostgreSQL, Kafka, AWS, distributed systems, payments

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

2012 to 2014 **Software Engineer**
Nimbus Labs, Madison, WI

- Built backend services for a scheduling product used by 400 clinics.

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012

SPEAKING

"Hiring engineers without whiteboard interviews", Chicago Engineering Leaders meetup, 2025