Xinjiang Shao

Principal Engineer · Chicago, IL

Engineering leader who has built platforms, grown teams, and driven business outcomes at scale

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Skills

Leadership: Engineering Leadership, Team Building & Hiring, Platform Architecture, Cross-functional Stakeholder Management, Technical Roadmapping

Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, Java, Swift, Rust, Dart

Frontend & Mobile: React, Next.js, Vue.js, Tailwind CSS, D3.js, HTML/CSS, SwiftUI, Flutter

Backend & Data: Node.js, Spring, Express, FastAPI, GraphQL, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, Firebase

Cloud & DevOps: Google Cloud, AWS, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD

AI: MCP Servers, LLM Integration, AI-assisted Development with Coding Agents

Practices: Agile Development, Trunk-based Development, Web Accessibility, Scalable System Design

Spoken Languages: English, Chinese Mandarin

Experience

The Aspen Group

Chicago, IL

Principal Engineer

December 2024 – Present

- Led the full-scope rewrite and migration of 30+ fragmented legacy stacks into a unified Digital Commerce Platform (DCP) for five healthcare brands, managing a high-scale environment with a peak throughput of 250 requests per second across 1,400+ locations.
- Spearheaded the transition from a shared-application model to a “DCP Next” architecture using Next.js 16 (App Router), achieving 60–80% code reuse through shared monorepo packages while granting brands independent deployment autonomy and improving release velocity by 3x.
- Led a cross-functional team of 30+ engineers across 5 brands directly reporting to VP of Engineering.
- Built the first MCP servers for Aspen Dental and ClearChoice appointment scheduling (December 2025), enabling AI-driven booking from ChatGPT and Claude.
- Delivered Patient Portal 2.0 and a patient identity platform (September 2026) on Next.js 16, Auth0 and Twilio Verify with MFA: 100K+ patient accounts in the first month, median sign-in cut from about a minute to under 20 seconds, a third of MFA enrollments on passkeys, and all three Core Web Vitals passing.
- Launched Intelligent Scheduling (early 2026) and TransUnion-based fraud detection to keep bots and fake appointments out of online booking.
- Since March 2026, own the clinical enterprise mobile apps used in offices (Aspen Tx Navigator, Aspen Forms, Aspen Scan): upgraded Flutter from 3.24.3 to 3.47.5 and the barcode scanner library for the latest iOS, and integrated Rilla to record in-office consultations.

Lead Software Engineer

May 2023 – December 2024

- Orchestrated the zero-to-one DCP v1 rollout across all five healthcare brands on an aggressive quarterly cadence — delivering 15+ brand-app combinations (marketing sites, office directories, schedulers, lobby experiences) from WellNow’s inaugural launch in Q4 2023 to full multi-brand coverage by Q4 2024.
- Established weekly cross-functional office hours with content, marketing, and product teams — accelerating feature adoption and ensuring patient scheduling and marketing experiences stayed continuously aligned with brand needs across all five healthcare brands.
- Launched a recurring Chapter meeting across front-end engineers in Chicago and Belgrade — creating a shared forum for aligning on solutions, propagating best practices, and bridging collaboration across distributed teams.

Peapod Digital Labs Chicago, IL

Principal Software Engineer January 2022 – May 2023

- Spearheaded the complex ATG retirement project, successfully migrating 78% of APIs to new cloud microservices and engineering a robust backend-for-frontend (BFF) GraphQL gateway to support the native Mobile application MVP. Cut front-end build times by 50% (from 40 to 20 minutes), improved core web vitals (P75 metrics) into the “acceptable” zone.
- Engaged in architecture reviews to ensure technical designs and integrations with other principal engineers and domain architects to establish current engineering standards.
- Established and led the engineering design review process for a 40+ person org, driving alignment across 5 grocery brands.

Senior Software Engineer January 2019 – December 2021

- Led front-end engineering during a hyper-growth phase — scaling the team from fewer than 5 to over 40 engineers — and delivered over 50 features for the PRISM v1 release, which directly enabled the successful migration of three major Ahold Delhaize brands (Stop & Shop, The Giant Company, Giant Food) to the platform for online sale 3+ Billion (eCom Penetration Rate grew from 1.85% to 7.10%).
- Engineered high-impact revenue-driving capabilities, including deploying the foundational Click & Collect feature, building SEO-optimized static pages, and integrating Quotient Ads and Elevaate to provide a consistent omnichannel media monetization experience.
- Mentored a dozen junior developers to grow and understand the current industry’s leading practices and analyzed the pros and cons of engineering solutions.

Peapod Chicago, IL

Software Engineer January 2017 – December 2018

- Migrated the AngularJS SPA to a modern component-based architecture while delivering core eCommerce features — order tracking, promotional pricing, batch cart management, and slot-filtered unattended delivery.
- Drove A/B testing initiatives with Optimizely and Google Experiments, championing modern engineering practices to lift site usability, performance, and accessibility.

Exact Sports Chicago, IL

Full Stack Software Engineer December 2011 – December 2016

- Built full-stack sports tech platform serving 65k+ users — including psychological profiling tools used by MLB, NHL, and US Soccer prospects, a camp registration system, and an iOS highlight video app — while migrating infrastructure to AWS and cutting server response time by 87%.

Projects

GroceryTrack — AI Receipt Scanner https://grocerytrack.food Founder · March 2026 – Present

- Built and shipped an AI receipt scanner on the web (live in one day), the App Store and Google Play, with an MCP server for AI assistants; 270 users by October 10, 2026, 144 of whom scanned 1,245 receipts (12,376 items). Rewrote the iOS app in SwiftUI in about a day with a coding agent: half the install size, 3x faster CI, 4 dependencies instead of 43.

Tinycap and bogyman — Developer Tools https://github.com/soleo Open source (MIT) · October 2026

- Tinycap (https://github.com/soleo/tinycap): native Swift menu-bar app for macOS that records small MP4, WebM and GIF files with a custom GIF encoder and marks up screenshots; v0.4 two days after the first commit.
- bogyman (https://github.com/soleo/bogyman-cli): Rust CLI that shows which Claude Code and Codex sessions are waiting on you and for how long, with a stable JSON schema for scripts and agents; v0.3 in four days.

Education

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL — M.S., Computer Science · August 2011 – May 2013

Dalian Polytechnic University, Dalian, China — B.S., Information and Computing Science · August 2007 – May 2011

Awards

Stevie Awards (2017) for Revamped Mobile Peapod App in Online Shopping Category