Victoria Drake

PROFILE

As a seasoned engineering leader, I guide teams to produce secure, industry-leading software for both government and private sector entities. My unique experience equips me to navigate the full spectrum of technology product development, from roadmap conception to final deployment and operations.

I've excelled as an engineering director, principal software engineer, and mentor. I connect executive decisions with hands-on technical experience. I enjoy sharing my expertise at many levels, whether it's advising C-suite executives on technology strategy or software and security best practices, unblocking development teams, or deep-diving the codebase with developers to tackle complex architectural and technical challenges. I particularly thrive in leading distributed teams and bringing together complementary skills.

I'm a co-author of the OWASP Web Security Testing Guide and advocate for cybersecurity training across organizations. Along with contributions to various business and engineering publications, my track record reflects my commitment to understanding the technology and security terrain and ensuring teams can traverse it with confidence.

EXPERIENCE

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER 2021-2023

Principal Software Engineer for Sophos Factory, a modern DevSecOps automation pipeline builder.

- Enhanced platform scalability of a newly-acquired startup, aligning it with the broader business needs of Sophos through strategic technical and operational enhancements
- Collaborated across teams to seamlessly integrate Sophos Factory with broader Sophos offerings and product strategy
- Established standards and workflow processes to scale up the delivery of new features
- Ensured roadmap planning and comprehensive feature requirements aligned with the broader company strategy and roadmap

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING 2020-2021

I led software development at ZibaSec, a modern cybersecurity awareness training platform that uses realistic phishing simulations to create lasting behavior change and cyber risk reduction.

- Lead the engineering group to design, implement, and secure a serverless cloud infrastructure while greatly improving application performance and achieving FedRAMP Authorization

- Achieved 4.5x speedup in serverless application performance using multiple infrastructure components and distributed computing techniques
- Created and implemented strategies for increasing knowledge transfer and organizational scalability in a growing, remote-first company
- Reduced onboarding time for new engineers by 75% by leading an overhaul of onboarding processes and documentation
- Scaled the engineering team size by 3x through improved processes for recruiting, interviewing, and hiring

OWASP FOUNDATION CORE CONTRIBUTOR TEAM 2019-PRESENT

Co-author and core maintainer for the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) Web Security Testing Guide (WSTG). The WSTG is the foremost open source resource for organizations and developers worldwide for testing web application security.

SENIOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPER, CONSULTANT 2016-2021

As a senior technology leader with a background in cybersecurity and full-stack software development, I provide executive leadership insights and technical guidance on product and process improvement.

Focus areas:
- Leader mentorship and development
- Increasing development velocity in engineering teams
- Application infrastructure and code efficiency, speedup, and cost savings

Products and case studies:
- ApplyByAPI.com, a SaaS application that improves the technical hiring process by filtering candidates at the top of the funnel and reducing human hours spent on screening
- Modern e-commerce solutions for legacy industries, such as for large-scale commercial building construction materials
- Product design and product management for applications such as an audio virtual reality SaaS application

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE — GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT

hello@victoria.dev

https://victoria.dev

(936) 701-0839