



DANIEL CHEN-WHITAKER

Java Developer

Staff Java engineer with 14 years building large-scale payment, identity, and order systems. I set technical direction across multiple teams, write the hard RFCs, and stay close enough to code to debug production with the on-call. Recent focus: virtual threads, project Loom adoption, and pulling cost out of JVM fleets running on Kubernetes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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KEY SKILLS

- Java 8/11/17/21, including virtual threads and structured concurrency (Project Loom)
- JVM performance tuning, GC analysis (G1, ZGC, Shenandoah), and heap profiling with JFR/async-profiler
- Spring Boot, Spring Cloud, and Micronaut for microservice architectures
- Distributed systems design: gRPC, REST, GraphQL, and event-driven patterns
- Apache Kafka, schema registry, and async messaging standards (DLQ, idempotency, exactly-once)
- Postgres, Cassandra, Redis, and Oracle, including transaction and locking design
- Kubernetes, Helm, and JVM workload tuning for containerized fleets
- Observability with OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, and distributed tracing
- Low-latency Java techniques: off-heap memory, Aeron, lock-free data structures
- Technical leadership: RFC authoring, cross-team architecture review, and staff-level mentorship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STAFF SOFTWARE ENGINEER | HELIX COMMERCE CLOUD, AUSTIN, TX 2021 – PRESENT

- Set Java platform direction for 6 teams (~55 engineers) building the merchant order graph; published the internal Java 21 adoption guide now used company-wide.
- Designed the move from thread-per-request Tomcat to virtual-thread-backed services on JDK 21, cutting EC2 spend on the order API tier by about \$2.3M annually.
- Led the rewrite of the inventory reservation service: replaced an Oracle-based locking scheme with a Postgres + Redis design that hit 18K reservations per second with sub-50ms p99.
- Wrote the company's async messaging standard (Kafka topic naming, schema evolution, DLQ rules) after retro-ing 11 production incidents tied to bad event design.
- Sponsor the staff-track mentoring program; coached 3 senior engineers through promotion to staff in the past two years.

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER | ARIA IDENTITY SYSTEMS, BOULDER, CO 2017 – 2021

- Architected a Java-based authorization service (Spring Boot, Cassandra, gRPC) serving 9B policy decisions per month for B2B SaaS customers.
- Drove the migration from a JBoss monolith to 23 microservices over 26 months, hitting the cutover date with zero customer-visible downtime.
- Built the JVM cost model the platform org used to negotiate down a 40% reduction in committed cloud spend.
- Represented engineering in 6 enterprise security audits, including SOC 2 Type II and HITRUST.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER | COBALT TRADING SYSTEMS, CHICAGO, IL 2013 – 2017

- Wrote low-latency Java for an equities order router; brought median tick-to-trade from 380 microseconds to 96 with off-heap buffers and Aeron.
- Owned the JVM garbage collection strategy across 40+ trading hosts, including the move from CMS to G1.
- Built the team's fuzz-testing harness, which surfaced a serialization bug that would have mispriced about 0.4% of overnight options trades.
- Mentored 5 engineers and ran the internal 'concurrency in Java' study group.

- Cloud cost modeling and capacity planning on AWS (EC2, EKS, MSK)
- CI/CD with Jenkins, GitHub Actions, and trunk-based development at scale

SOFTWARE ENGINEER | RIVERSTONE BANKING SOFTWARE, CHICAGO, IL
2010 – 2013

- Built Java 6 batch jobs for end-of-day reconciliation across 14 community-bank clients.
- Designed the firm's first JUnit-driven CI pipeline; cut release-cycle bugs by roughly half in the year after rollout.
- Took on the unofficial 'who do I ask about JVM' role for the office of about 30 engineers.
- Coauthored an internal book chapter on Spring Batch patterns still in onboarding today.

EDUCATION

M.S. Computer Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2010

B.S. Computer Engineering, Purdue University, 2008

Oracle Certified Professional: Java SE 17 Developer

Confluent Certified Developer for Apache Kafka