

Josh Caffey

Platform Architect & Engineering Consultant

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Platform architect and engineering consultant with 18 years building and scaling production software, distributed systems, APIs, cloud infrastructure, and developer platforms. One of ART19's first three engineers, helping build the platform from zero; most recently Head of Platform at Volt Labs. Brings hands-on implementation experience to architecture, from early product development and production scale to platforms that improve how engineering teams build and deliver software.

Core Expertise

Platform Architecture • AWS Architecture • API & Application Architecture • Internal Developer Platforms • Developer Experience • Distributed Systems • Platform Modernization • Observability • Performance Engineering • Technical Leadership

Professional Experience

Head of Platform

Volt Labs | 2024-2026

Responsible for the architecture, evolution, and operational health of an enterprise messaging platform delivering millions of SMS messages daily.

- Designed and built Ground, a Rust application framework and CLI within a broader internal developer platform effort, standardizing authentication, validation, data access, background jobs, configuration, and testing.
- Owned API production readiness as primary code reviewer; established engineering standards and RFC practices, reviewed significant technical changes, and determined release readiness.
- Built shared integration-test fixtures with fresh PostgreSQL, Redis, and Faktory containers for each test using the application fixture. Requests exercised an in-process application router against those dependencies.
- Automated team workstation setup with Ansible: roughly one week to under 20 minutes, excluding external accounts and permissions. Broader platform and developer-experience work reduced time to first PR from roughly one week to roughly one day. Built team-used Nix project environments and Linux release workflows; retired the dedicated build machine.
- Embedded observability standards in Ground through shared OpenTelemetry instrumentation, automatic HTTP request tracing, and structured logging.
- Led an Aurora PostgreSQL performance optimization initiative that reduced p99 SQL latency from multiple minutes to under two seconds.
- Led platform modernization through a multi-language monorepo migration, preserving repository histories and simplifying cross-service development.

Owner / Operator

Family-Owned Restaurant Business | 2020-2024

Founded and operated a family-owned food trailer that grew into a brick-and-mortar restaurant, managing a team of four employees along with business operations, finances, vendors, and growth.

Senior Software Engineer

ART19 | 2014-2019

Joined in 2014 as a contractor before transitioning to full-time. One of the first three engineers, helping build ART19 from zero into a production podcast hosting, publishing, and analytics platform. ART19 was later acquired by Amazon in 2021.

- Designed and built frontend and backend systems as the early product grew into a production platform.
- Architected distributed synchronization infrastructure.
- Built high-volume APIs supporting production workloads exceeding 100,000 requests per minute.
- Built the deployment pipeline for ART19's embeddable podcast player, packaging JavaScript and CSS assets with Node.js, publishing them to S3, and invalidating CloudFront caches as part of each deployment.

Software Engineer / Senior Software Engineer

Anywhere Mobile Solutions / Illume Mobile / DecisionPoint Systems | 2011-2014

Designed and developed custom web and mobile applications across retail, hospitality, logistics, and aviation.

- Developed an inventory management application for Sephora.
- Contributed to a configurable mobile application platform used to build and manage branded mobile applications, including TGI Fridays.
- Built operational applications including a GPS-enabled delivery tracking system integrating Google Maps and airport software presenting flight, passenger-assistance, and operational information.

Software Engineer

Data3 Corporation | 2008-2011

Technical Stack

Cloud & Infrastructure

AWS (EC2, ECS / Fargate, ELB / ALB, Lambda, S3, SQS / SNS, Aurora / RDS, ElastiCache, VPC, IAM, Route 53, CloudFront, CloudWatch) • Linux / Unix • Docker • Nginx • HAProxy

Languages, Frameworks & Data

Rust • Ruby / Rails • Python • JavaScript / TypeScript • Node.js • React • Bash / Shell • PostgreSQL • Redis

Infrastructure as Code Familiarity

Terraform concepts and workflows

Platform & Delivery

Internal Developer Platforms • API Architecture • REST APIs • GraphQL • WebSockets • GitHub Actions • Nix • Ansible • Docker Compose • Monorepos • Developer Environment Automation • CI/CD • CLI Development

Observability & Reliability

OpenTelemetry • Datadog • Jaeger • Honeycomb • New Relic • Distributed Tracing • Structured Logging • Performance & Query Optimization