

Daniel Khalili

Engineering Manager | Ad Tech | Agentic AI | Full-Stack
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Product-minded agentic engineering manager with a strong technical foundation and a track record of building effective teams and shipping impactful products.

I sit at the trifecta of engineering, product, and leadership. I'm hands-on technically, I think in outcomes, and I care about the people I work with and their growth. That combination lets me work effectively across every layer of a technology organization.

AI is a core part of how I work. I've put real time into learning, building, and experimenting with AI tools and agentic frameworks, using them to make myself and my team more effective. I'm not stepping back from the technical side as I grow as a leader. I'm exploring what it means to manage not just people but agents, using agentic workflows to drive results at a different scale.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

- **Ad Manager MCP:** Co-founded the Ad Manager MCP alongside two other engineers at Kargo, integrating core ad operations workflows into an MCP-compatible infrastructure. Accessible by any MCP-compatible AI agent including ChatGPT and Claude, enabling ad ops automation across agent environments.
- **Multi-Surface Ad Architecture:** Led and presented the architectural framework to expand Kargo's ad format hierarchy beyond OpenWeb to support CTV, In-App, DOOH, and OS Native surfaces. Started internally, adopted by a dedicated surfaces team, now a high-priority executive initiative.
- **Deployment Transformation:** As Tech Lead, drove the shift from large bi-weekly deployments with recurring incidents to weekly releases with minimal failure rates across a broader team of roughly 10 engineers. Improved speed without sacrificing stability.
- **Jira and GitHub Automation:** An early application of AI-driven automation: built a custom system that synchronized Jira tickets to GitHub PRs, applied labels automatically, tracked milestones, and generated release notes based on PR types, removing significant manual overhead from the engineering workflow.
- **Bidding Strategy and Curation:** Led the integration of bidding strategy and curation capabilities into the platform and coordinated rollout across the company.
- **CTV Subject Matter Expert:** Served as the cross-departmental SME for CTV integrations at Kargo, bridging engineering, ad operations, and supply teams to expand campaign management to the connected TV surface.
- **AI Adoption:** Led AI integration within the engineering team and expanded tooling and workflows to other departments. Built internal agentic systems using the OpenAI and Anthropic APIs, Neuron AI, and the Laravel AI Toolkit.

EXPERIENCE

Kargo New York, NY

Primary ad demand and supply management platform for a 500-800 person organization. The platform and APIs power campaign management, publisher supply, and all new ad tech integrations company-wide, processing thousands of requests daily. Work spans multiple repositories across very different tech stacks and business domains, requiring continuous learning and context switching as priorities, incidents, and team needs shift throughout the day.

Manager, Engineering Jan 2026 - Present

- Promoted into engineering leadership while remaining hands-on technically, balancing high-level planning with active development
- Primary point of contact between Product, Project Managers, and Engineering leadership across all major initiatives. Gathering requirements, aligning on business outcomes, and driving implementation under real resource constraints
- Manage 4 direct reports through 1:1s, career growth conversations, and structured feedback, while coordinating across a broader team of roughly 10 engineers
- Assign tasks based on individual strengths and development areas, and provide direct feedback to help engineers grow
- Key voice in roadmap planning, proposing and scoping initiatives for cycle and quarterly planning in close collaboration with Product
- Run sprint ceremonies including standups and technical deep-dives
- Coordinate cross-team dependencies and communicate timelines to leadership and dependent stakeholders
- Bring a product mindset to engineering leadership, focused on outcomes and company-wide impact

Senior Software Engineer II | Tech Lead Jan 2024 - Jan 2026

- Led full-stack development of the internal Campaign Management platform, owning end-to-end delivery across backend services, APIs, and frontend applications
- Served as Tech Lead coordinating a broader team of roughly 10 engineers, aligning with Product, Design, and Ad Operations
- Gathered and translated business and product requirements into technical solutions, managing priorities across concurrent workstreams while navigating constant context switching
- Ran code reviews, managed CI/CD deployments, and established engineering best practices across the team
- One of the primary mentors on the team, actively supporting engineer growth and knowledge sharing
- Early adopter of AI tooling within the team, integrating tools that significantly accelerated delivery without compromising code quality
- Stack: PHP (Laravel), Node.js, React, Angular, Inertia.js, Docker, AWS, Kubernetes, and more

Senior Software Engineer I Dec 2021 - Jan 2024

- Joined Kargo's Workflow team as a senior engineer and quickly took ownership of initiatives end-to-end across multiple repositories and tech stacks
- Built across the full stack including backend services, APIs, and frontend interfaces supporting internal operations and ad-serving workflows
- Learned new technologies and business logic continuously to keep pace with an evolving, multi-platform environment
- Contributed to code reviews and helped raise overall code quality across the team

YLift Team New York, NY

Senior Software Engineer | Tech Lead Sep 2020 - Dec 2021

- Built and led the tech department from the ground up for a medical aesthetics e-commerce company, modernizing the platform to a new generation of technology
- Led the architecture and development of a live streaming and class platform for healthcare training and procedure demonstrations, evolving it from basic video conferencing into a full-featured communication and learning environment using AWS ChimeSDK and FFmpeg
- Worked directly with the CEO to set company direction and shape the product roadmap
- Hired, mentored, and managed a team of 3 engineers while serving as the lead engineer on all major development efforts
- Stack: Node.js, Vue.js, MySQL, Elasticsearch, Docker, AWS (EC2, ECS, S3, CodePipeline, ChimeSDK)

SpotLeads Remote | Freelance

Back-End Developer Mar 2019 - Sep 2020

- Built and managed RESTful APIs for a real estate mobile startup using Node.js, Firebase, and MongoDB on AWS, collaborating directly with iOS developers

Scimund Inc Brooklyn, NY

Co-Founder | Architect | Lead Software Engineer May 2017 - Jun 2019

- Co-founded Scimund in 2017, a technology startup focused on bringing immersive VR and media experiences to consumers for capturing and reliving personal memories
- Served as one of two company leads, making product direction and project management decisions alongside day-to-day engineering and operations
- Managed the software department including hiring, budgeting, and team oversight, while leading architecture and development across web and VR platforms
- Built in-house server infrastructure to connect web applications and led the team into new technology including Unreal Engine, Unity, C++, and Python

Zola Suite Port Washington, NY

Front-End Developer Nov 2016 - May 2017

- Built frontend features and RESTful APIs for legal practice management software using JavaScript, C#, Bootstrap, and MongoDB

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Leadership: Engineering Management, Technical Leadership, Roadmap Planning, 1:1s, Career Development, Cross-functional Collaboration

Languages: PHP, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, Ruby, C#, C++, HTML, CSS

Frameworks & Runtimes: Laravel, Node.js, React, Angular, Vue.js, Inertia.js, Next.js, Express.js, Bootstrap

AI Tools: Cursor, Claude, GitHub Copilot, OpenAI Codex, CodeRabbit, OpenAI API, Anthropic API, Neuron AI, Laravel AI Toolkit

Cloud & Infra: AWS (EC2, ECS, S3, CodePipeline, CloudWatch, ChimeSDK), Docker, Kubernetes, Elasticsearch, Redis

Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, SQLite, Firebase

Dev Tools: GitHub, Jira, Asana, CI/CD Pipelines

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Stony Brook University 2011 - 2015

[Stony Brook, NY](#)

General Assembly | Web Development Immersive Jul 2015 - Sep 2015

[New York, NY](#)