

Cole Oliver Cofer

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SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer and Tech Lead with proven expertise in designing scalable APIs, optimizing system performance, and leading high-performing teams. Strong track record of building and maintaining microservices at scale, with experience in query optimization and cloud infrastructure. Experienced in AI-assisted development and mentorship, passionate about delivering high-quality solutions that directly impact users. Committed to pragmatic, incremental releases and thriving in fast-paced, collaborative environments.

EXPERIENCE

Apex Fintech Solutions - Portland, OR

Senior Software Engineer September 2024 - Present | **Software Engineer II** October 2021 - September 2024 | **Software Engineer I** March 2020 - October 2021

- **API & Performance:** Designed and maintained high-performance REST APIs in Golang and Java, serving millions of requests daily with focus on efficiency and clean code organization
- **Technical Leadership:** Promoted to Tech Lead, guiding a team of 5 engineers in API design decisions and system architecture while maintaining hands-on development contributions
- **Scaling & Optimization:** Led modernization of legacy services to be horizontally scalable in the cloud; separately achieved 40% response time improvements through query optimization, read replica implementation, and strategic query planning (PostgreSQL)
- **Mentorship & Growth:** Mentored several junior engineers and interns throughout their careers at Apex, helping them develop technical skills and grow into confident contributors - finding the process deeply rewarding and valuable for my own growth
- **AI Tool Integration:** Leading advocate for AI adoption on our team, particularly agentic AI tools like Claude Code for complex development tasks; helped teammates integrate AI tools into their workflows to significantly boost productivity while understanding their limitations
- **Cross-team Collaboration:** Owned our team's critical role in a company-wide scalability initiative, coordinating with dependent teams to prepare systems for 5x traffic increase (~200 to 1000+ RPS); consistently partner across product, frontend, and infrastructure teams to deliver cohesive API solutions

InComm Digital Solutions - Portland, OR

Software Engineer Intern June 2018 - March 2020

- Developed and maintained backend microservices for e-commerce platform using C# and .NET
- Built comprehensive automated test suites using Cypress and AVA, improving deployment confidence

Mobile App Development

- Published iOS app "Brew: Coffee Calculator" for Apple Watch (2022); currently developing a companion app that provides extraction estimates to replace physical refractometer hardware
- Developed a computer vision iOS app for analyzing latte art objectively in 2018
- Developed and published a coffee app called *Barista Bud* on the windows phone market in 2013

EDUCATION

Portland State University - Portland, Oregon | 2015-2019 B.S. in Computer Science

SKILLS

- **Proficient with:** Golang, Java, Kubernetes, Claude Code, Github Copilot, Kafka, gRPC, Git, PostgreSQL, Docker, Terraform, Python, Swift, DataDog, Bazel
- **Familiar with:** Rust, Redis, C#, C++, C, JavaScript, Objective-C