SAM CACKETT

STAFF ENGINEER / ENGINEERING MANAGER

DETAILS

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SKILLS

Leadership and Teamwork

Adaptability

Lean / XP

Computer Programming

Android

AWS

Serverless

HOBBIES

I have a varied hobby list that evolves over time. I used to compete in various sports, but now just exercise to keep fit and I'm a private pilot. I love music and play piano. I also enjoy gaming, reading, puzzles and cooking.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A passionate and results-oriented Engineer and Engineering Manager with a proven track record of building high-performance, people-centric teams and user facing systems. My leadership philosophy is centred on fostering a collective team culture while mentoring individuals to help them thrive.

Technically, I am driven by pragmatically delivering exceptional user experiences and enjoy mastering all aspects of the software development lifecycle. With broad experience across multiple industries and technologies, I adapt and learn rapidly.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Staff Software Engineer, Google (Launcher - Android Context Engine)

London

Oct 2025 — Present

Following a move to the Android Context Engine team, I currently work on building the Magic Cue experience on Pixel and Proactive Assistance features on Android. These systems use AI models to anticipate user intent and surface relevant help in real time, such as suggesting recommended restaurants from Gemini live whilst a user is discussing it with a friend, or offering one-tap autofill suggestions based on user data when someone messages for a flight number or meeting time.

The work involves building on device and model driven features that interpret live user context and trigger low-latency assistance across Android surfaces, such as System UI, Autofill (keyboard), Messages, Dialer, to name a few. It is complicated by system health constraints, privacy constraints, model execution constraints so that suggestions appear instantaneously without degrading device performance.

Engineering Manager, Google (Launcher - Overview)

London

Oct 2023 — Present

After building user facing UI in ChromeOS, I moved to Android SysUI organisation to manage the Overview (Android Launcher app switcher) and Physical Keyboard/Trackpad teams. Alongside people management and delivery, I stayed close to the codebase to drive architectural improvements across the Android system UI.

Key Accomplishments:

- Spearheaded the adoption of modern technologies by introducing Jetpack Compose and Google's Recommended Architecture into Launcher.
- Enhanced team agility and code quality by establishing modern Agile practices, such as Kanban and pair programming.
- Successfully launched multiple major features, including Desktop Experiences and the Material Design release, delivering core improvements to the Android user experience.

Staff Software Engineer, Google (ChromeOS) London

Jun 2022 — Oct 2023

I initially joined Google as an Engineering Manager to establish and staff a new London-based ChromeOS SysUI team with an initial team size of 10 engineers. Following company wide restructuring, I transitioned to an Individual Contributor role. In this capacity, I rapidly acquired proficiency in C++ and took ownership of developing complex UI features for ChromeOS Calendar and Notifications.

Senior Engineering Manager, Moonpig.com London

Jan 2021 — Jun 2022

Senior Engineering Manager that looked after the Loyalty and Customer teams. Significant achievements include:

- Built 2 teams from scratch and built a Lean / XP environment where engineers were empowered to deliver high quality and user focused features.
- Re-defined Moonpig's engineering hiring process; I was recognised for hiring the best people at Moonpig so I formalised a process for it for the whole company to use.
- Hiring and performance managing the only 2 engineers who ever received 'Exceptional' ratings in the company.
- Re-platformed the legacy .NET Framework and monolithic DB to AWS serverless.
- Built the Moonpig Plus subscription scheme in close collaboration with the C-team as a major area of future customer growth.

Engineering Manager Platform, Moonpig.com London

Jan 2020 — Jan 2021

As the Engineering Manager for the Platform team, I led the strategic migration of

Moonpig's legacy, self hosted infrastructure to AWS and developed shared tooling to accelerate engineering. My key achievements include successfully migrating Moonpig's core product domain from a legacy .NET/SQL Server stack to a modern, cloud-native solution using Commercetools and AWS. I also spearheaded the creation of a serverless logging stack with Elasticsearch and architected a dependency-free GraphQL Federation using Apollo Studio, resulting in significant cost savings and the consolidation of legacy infrastructure.

Engineering Manager Android, Moonpig.com London

Feb 2018 — Jan 2020

I joined Moonpig as the Android Lead and it was a challenging role. I joined a dysfunctional team full of contractors and due to a late budget cut there were many redundancies and resignations in the first month I joined. Despite these initial hurdles, I rebuilt both the Android and iOS engineering teams and redefined the technical strategy.

Significant achievements include:

- Successfully transformed a challenged, contractor-reliant mobile division by completely rebuilding both the Android and iOS teams, from team structure and ways of working to staffing and strategy.
- Drove a dramatic turnaround in app performance and user satisfaction, elevating the app from a 2.7-star rating to a consistent 4.8-star, multi-award-winning product.
- Significantly grew the mobile channel's commercial impact, increasing its share of annual company revenue from 10% to 40%.
- Led the technical modernisation of the Android application, re-architecting the codebase to use Kotlin and an MVI + Clean code pattern.
- Excelled in talent development, successfully mentoring team members

to become high-performers while managing under-performance where necessary.
- Represented the company as a speaker at various Android events.

Senior IT Consultant / Tech Lead, IBM iX Various

Nov 2011 — Feb 2018

I joined IBM on it's graduate scheme and worked there for 7 years on various teams, with several clients and industries, namely: BP, Castrol, Waitrose, RBS, CLS, Barclays, National Grid and DWP.

Significant achievements include:

- Successfully delivered multiple multi-million dollar projects
- Part of Top Talent: a select group of top 10% of performers in the company that receive additional mentoring and support
- Grew the iX engineering practice and supported junior developers growth
- Key part of building out offshore apps teams in Romania

NHS Nurse Assistance, NHS London

Sept 2009 — Nov 2011

- Mental Health Nurse caring for patients with a range of mental health illnesses, namely bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia
- This work profoundly changed me and taught me to do what I love; how to get the best out of others and what a strong team can achieve

EDUCATION

BSc Psychology, University of Kent at Canterbury Canterbury

Sept 2006 — Jul 2009

- Graduated with 2:1
- Men's rowing captain
- Henley quarter-finalist
- Boston Marathon winner

REFERENCES

References available upon request