

Christopher Groskopf

Profile

Strategic product and engineering leader with 15+ years experience transforming complex needs into concrete requirements and then into working software. Proven track record of leading and scaling data teams of 40+ staff while delivering mission-critical products that serve millions of users. Cross-industry expertise spanning technology, government, and media. Diversified experience coordinating and integrating work across disciplines including data engineering, human-centered design, data-driven storytelling, and more.

Experience

California Digital Library (University of California) | Technical Manager 2026 – Present

- Ensuring faculty and students have seamless access to the collective materials of UC and world libraries by providing best-in-class application and service development
- Overseeing development of Zephir, the HathiTrust metadata management platform, and AGUA, our platform for shared collections analysis
- Implementing modern DevOps workflows to reliability and consistency across our project portfolio
- Establishing expectations, norms, and best practices for agentic development

CDC | Dissemination Technology and Services Branch Chief 2023 – 2026

- Led the team through its “startup phase,” growing from a handful of staff to a team of 40+ and establishing new teams for data engineering, data visualization, and product management
- Developed agency-wide strategy for visualization, dashboard development, and data publishing from within “1CDP,” the agency’s Palantir Foundry-based data platform
- Oversaw frontier projects, including a first-of-its-kind, integrated dashboard for infectious diseases and prototype services leveraging generative AI for public health communications
- Applied human-centered design and data visualization best practices to create a highly accessible, mobile-first presentation of COVID, flu, and RSV data that more than doubled usage in just three months
- Served as a Steering Committee member for the CDC’s Data Viz Science Advisory Group and delivered presentations on data-driven storytelling to 1000+ CDC staff

FiveThirtyEight (Disney) | Deputy Managing Editor, Interactives and Graphics 2019 – 2023

- Led design and development of interactive data products obsessed over by millions, including real-time NBA prediction models, COVID and abortion access visualizations, and our signature election forecasts
- Co-led 35+ staff across all functions, including people management, strategy, and operations
- Established a disciplined, agile development process that resulted in zero showstopper bugs over 4+ years
- Managed product partnerships within Disney, as well as Apple and other B2B partners

Enigma | Data Engineering Lead 2017 – 2019

- Co-led development of Company Graph, Enigma’s premier enterprise data product for verifying small businesses

- Oversaw rapid prototyping of novel algorithms to create terabyte-scale knowledge graphs from public and private data sources
- Led the development of a bespoke data engineering platform using Airflow, Docker, and Python, and usage of that platform to ingest public and private data sources
- Managed and mentored engineers and data scientists at all professional levels, including successful turnarounds for underperforming staff

Quartz | Data Editor

2015 – 2017

- Managed and edited data-driven projects across the organization
- Contributed analysis, reporting, and data visualization on topics ranging from museum archives to the growth of submarine internet cables to famine forecasting in Southern Africa
- Trained reporters and authored widely-cited documentation such as [The Quartz Guide to Bad Data](#)

My complete work history, including as a non-profit founder, is available on [LinkedIn](#).

Education

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

2004

Major: Philosophy | Minor: Creative Writing

Leadership Skills

- Developing comprehensive, cross-functional strategies
- Building high performing remote and hybrid teams
- Breaking down silos and building new partnerships
- Managing managers and mentoring new ones
- Delivering robust products on tight deadlines using agile project management techniques
- Designing sustainable and equitable programs and policies
- Communicating verbally, visually, and in writing

Technical Skills

- Full-stack software development with Python, Javascript, SQL, R, etc. (15 years)
- Building software tools that are used and loved (15 years)
- Designing engaging user interfaces with Figma, Illustrator, etc. (15 years)
- Applying human-centered design through research, user testing, and rapid prototyping (15 years)
- Developing and deploying cloud native solutions with AWS, Azure, Docker, etc. (15 years)
- Data engineering with Airflow, SQL, etc. (10 years)
- Crafting accessible web products that meet or exceed WCAG and 508 standards (6 years)
- Leveraging generative AI for content workflows and managing AI-related risks (2 years)