Teams & Orgs at QCon San Francisco 2025

Sessions

From Founding Engineer to CTO to CEO – At the Same Startup

Monday Nov 17

As a college sophomore, I founded Pointz, initially building its core routing engine from scratch. I architected the platform's safety rating algorithm, integrating geospatial data structures, crowdsourced inputs, and multi-criteria decision-making to deliver context-aware routing.

Trisha Ballakur

Co-Founder and CEO @Pointz, Forbes 30 Under 30 2025, Previously @Techstars and @Adobe

Continuous Delivery for Foundational Platforms

Monday Nov 17

Platform teams frequently inherit systems that were never architected for their current scale, yet are so foundational that downtime can halt the business.

Ian Nowland

CEO @Junction Labs, Author of O'Reilly's Platform Engineering, Previously SVP Core Engineering at Datadog and Leader of AWS Nitro

From Staff Platform Engineer to a 16z Founder: What I Wish I'd Known

Monday Nov 17

The Technical Leadership Challenge: Every successful engineering team faces the same inflection point: transforming beloved internal tools into a legitimate platform business.

Gonzalo (Glo) Maldonado

CTO & Cofounder of @Mocksi.ai, Staff Platform Engineer Turned Startup Founder, Turns Developer Platforms into Products, Temporal & MCP Fanatic

Maximizing Success with Limited Time, Resources, and Energy: Lessons from Startup Engineering

Monday Nov 17

Startups are the harshest environments for engineers. Limited time, resources, and energy force teams to make decisions under pressure — and those decisions can determine whether a company survives or stalls.

David Gudeman

Co-Founder and CTO @Velocity AI

Microservices Platforms: When Team Topologies Meets Microservices Patterns

Monday Nov 17

When many teams work on a large, complex application, the microservice architecture potentially enables them to work independently and deliver a continuous stream of changes.

Chris Richardson

Creator of microservices.io, Java Champion, & Core Microservices Thoughtleader

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The Future of Engineering: Mindsets That Matter When Code Isn't Enough

Monday Nov 17

Since the first compiler, software has been a stack of human-friendly abstractions translated into machine instructions. The engineers who understood at least some of what was going on under the hood were essential—indispensable even. But now?

Ben Greene

4X Founding CTO, Co-Founder and CTO @Tessi, Co-Creator of FreeFormula.Exchange, CTO-in-Residence at Techstars Boston

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Platform Engineering: Lessons from the Rise and Fall of eBay

Velocity

Monday Nov 17

Once a stock market darling and a pioneering hyperscaler in the 1990s and early 2000s, eBay has been in steady decline since the 2010s. A household name with a flat business, eBay has been unable to make substantive strides in its market reach or its engineering outcomes in the last 15 years.

Randy Shoup

SVP Engineering @Thrive Market, Previously @eBay, @Google, @Stitch Fix

Beyond the Build: Early-Stage Mindset for the Everything Engineer

Monday Nov 17

In an early-stage startup, the lines between roles blur, and engineering can become less about building and more about what makes the company attractive.

Aiyesha Ma

Founding CTO @Nureon, Previously Founding CEO @FluidCloth, Technical Lead @Cisco Tetration, Data Science @OpsClarity & ModCloth

Lead Without a Ladder: How I Climbed Into Engineering Leadership

Tuesday Nov 18

Climbing into senior engineering leadership isn't always a matter of following fixed rungs—it can be more like scaling a rugged, ever-shifting mountain. You know there might be a path somewhere on the south face but for some reason the North face has more appeal.

Pauline Jepp

Head of Engineering @TicketSwap

Panel: The Path to Senior Engineering Leadership

Tuesday Nov 18

This panel discussion provides aspiring and current engineering leaders with a clear roadmap for advancing

into Senior Engineering Leadership roles.

Pauline Jepp

Head of Engineering @TicketSwap

Brad Grantham

Software Architect and Team Lead @LunarG - Responsible for Cross-Platform, GPU-Independent Graphics API Capture and Replay Technologies

Kasia Trapszo

Principal Engineer @Netflix, Leading Architecture for the Commerce Platform

Joe Cassavaugh

Creator of Clutter, Game Developer/Solopreneur - Previously @iWin, @WorldPlay

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Building and Scaling UI Systems for Internal Tools at Meta

Tuesday Nov 18

Meta's internal tools empower the company to operate efficiently, enabling the creation of unique, tailored solutions that fit evolving business needs.

Cindy Zhang

Front End Engineer, InfraX @Meta

A Solopreneur's Journey: From Engineer to Puzzle Master and Storyteller

Tuesday Nov 18

Solopreneur & Sustainable Business don't often go together, but that's what can happen when you create something "Good Enough" and hang around "Long Enough". Joe, a true Unicorn in the volatile games business, has survived for 16+ years by creating 19 games in his Clutter Franchise.

Joe Cassavaugh

Creator of Clutter, Game Developer/Solopreneur - Previously @iWin, @WorldPlay

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Beyond Coding: How Senior ICs Grow Influence and Drive Impact

Tuesday Nov 18

Many engineers reach a point where technical excellence alone isn't enough to drive meaningful impact or

advance their careers. Senior individual contributors must learn to influence without authority, build trust across teams, and navigate challenges like imposter syndrome to truly lead.

Kasia Trapszo

Principal Engineer @Netflix, Leading Architecture for the Commerce Platform

Turning Outward: Growing From Code to Influence

Tuesday Nov 18

As individual contributors we sharpen our technical chops striving to improve our code and craft. But you may become aware you can do more, and could help others and the team. The path to make that shift isn't always clear.

Brad Grantham

Software Architect and Team Lead @LunarG - Responsible for Cross-Platform, GPU-Independent Graphics API Capture and Replay Technologies

The Human Toll of Incidents & Ways To Mitigate It

Wednesday Nov 19

Have you ever wondered what it's like to respond to a significant incident? Walk through an hour by hour reconstruction of an incident response or two, focusing on what it was like to be "in the room" and the human response to the incidents.

Kyle Lexmond

Production Engineer @Meta, Previously @AWS and @Twitter

Choosing Your AI Copilot: Maximizing Developer Productivity

Wednesday Nov 19

The AI coding agent landscape evolves weekly. This talk compares today's frontrunners, shows where each shines, and shares prompts, policies, and "rules templates" that turn code suggestions into production-quality output.

Sepehr Khosravi

Machine Learning Platform Engineer @Coinbase, Award Winning Instructor @UC Berkeley - Gen-AI

Bootcamp, Founder @ AI Scouts

Accelerating LLM-Driven Developer Productivity at Zoox

Wednesday Nov 19

Over the past year, Zoox has invested in integrating Large Language Models (LLMs) into the entire developer lifecycle through a companywide initiative called Zoox Intelligence (ZI).

Amit Navindgi

Staff Software Engineer, Developer Experience @ Zoox, Leading Applied AI Initiatives

How Netflix Shapes our Fleet for Efficiency and Reliability

Wednesday Nov 19

Netflix runs on a complex multi-layer cloud architecture made up of thousands of services, caches, and databases. As hardware options, workload patterns, cost dynamics and the Netflix products evolve, the cost-optimal hardware and configuration for running our services is constantly changing.

Joseph Lynch

Principal Software Engineer @Netflix Building Highly-Reliable and High-Leverage Infrastructure Across Stateless and Stateful Services

Argha C

Staff Software Engineer @Netflix - Leading Netflix's Cloud Scalability Efforts for Live

Powering the Future: Building Your GenAI Infrastructure Stack

Wednesday Nov 19

Behind every productivity leap is a rock-solid platform. Go under the hood with Intuit's GenOS team to see how vector stores, prompt management, RAG pipelines, and agent orchestration come together to serve ~100 million users.

Merrin Kurian

Distinguished Engineer @Intuit

Week-Long Outage: Lifelong Lessons

Wednesday Nov 19

Routine database upgrades should be straightforward, especially with familiar, well-established technology. We were confident heading into our Elasticsearch upgrade, equipped with a solid plan and excited to see performance gains like we had seen from past upgrades.

Molly Struve

Staff Site Reliability Engineer @Netflix

AI-Driven Productivity: From Idea to Impact

Wednesday Nov 19

In this session you'll learn how product leaders turn GenAI enthusiasm into an enterprise-ready blueprint for real productivity gains.

Jyothi Nookula

Product Leader Director with 13+ Years Driving AI Product & Platform Innovation, Previously @Meta, @Amazon, and @Etsy

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Beyond Code: Building a Personal Brand To Boost Your Career

Wednesday Nov 19

In an increasingly competitive field, software expertise alone may not be enough to stand out and drive your career forward.

Steef-Jan Wiggers

Cloud Queue Lead Editor @InfoQ, Domain Architect @VGZ, Microsoft Valuable Professional

Eran Stiller

Chief Software Architect @Cartesian, Veteran Editor @InfoQ

The Time it Wasn't DNS

Wednesday Nov 19

In January of 2023, the Microsoft Azure Wide Area Network experienced a global outage. If you were a Microsoft customer at the time, you were impacted by this outage.

Sean Klein

Principal Technical Program Manager - Modern Incident Analysis @Microsoft Azure

Trustworthy Productivity: Securing AI-Accelerated Development

Wednesday Nov 19

Autonomous agents operate in a continuous loop: perceive context reason execute tools observe. Each edge creates distinct attack surfaces. This talk maps vulnerabilities—memory poisoning in context ingestion, goal hijacking during reasoning, blind execution at the action stage.

Sriram Madapusi Vasudevan

Senior Software Engineer @AWS Agentic AI, Previously Core Team @AWS SAM, AWS Cloudwatch, Core Developer @Openstack