

Keith Steward, Ph.D.

AI & Data Platform Engineering Leader | Player-Coach

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PROFILE

Hands-on technical leader who builds senior distributed teams and delivers governed AI and data platforms from architecture through production readiness and operation. Combines Python, SQL, Databricks, cloud-native design, agentic ingestion, ML-backed products, CI/CD, infrastructure as code, observability, security, auditability, and multi-tenant SaaS with accountable planning and coaching. Built the AssistX core and first 80% of its initial application while leading 11 engineers, enabling 70+ automations across more than 20 workflows with 99.9% availability.

SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Built and led an 11-person AI engineering team with direct engineering management accountability while remaining hands-on in architecture, coding, design reviews, delivery, release management, security, and production operations.
- Architected and built a reusable AI platform supporting 70+ automations across more than 20 workflows with 99.9% availability.
- Established evaluation, traceability, human review, guardrails, observability, cost controls, release practices, and incident response for production agentic workflows.
- Delivered an AWS data platform across 11 divisions, reducing cross-ERP reporting from roughly two months to one day.
- Led regulated privacy, AI-governance, and healthcare-software delivery involving auditability, access controls, security, and reproducible operating practices.
- Advised more than 200 enterprises on AI/ML, data, cloud architecture, security, reliability, and production adoption while creating 170+ reusable technical assets and enabling 180+ architects through practical standards and mentoring.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Co-Founder | Intelligent DataWorks | Boston, MA | Aug 2023 to Oct 2026

Built and operated a production AI company while personally owning strategy, architecture, implementation, delivery, governance, and cloud operations.

- Recruited and led 11 engineers selected from more than 400 applicants; established onboarding, architecture training, Agile sprints, mentoring, code review, delivery priorities, and production standards.
- Built the AssistX core and first 80% of its initial application hands-on using Python, FastAPI, LLMs, agents, RAG, PostgreSQL/PGVector, APIs, Docker, AWS, and CDK.
- Delivered 70+ automations across more than 20 workflows, accelerating selected work by up to 50x while sustaining 99.9% availability.
- Established AI evaluation, LLM-as-judge, guardrails, observability, auditability, model routing, cost controls, security, CI/CD, release, and incident-response practices.
- Own a \$900,000 budget, staffing, product and technical roadmaps, architecture, releases, cloud operations, and executive decisions across the venture.
- Initiated strategic acquisition discussions regarding IDW's AI platform as part of a planned transition to a senior AI/engineering leadership role.

Sr. Director of Engineering | SuccessKPI | Remote | Jun 2022 to Aug 2023

Built and led engineering for a new AI-powered workforce-management platform within a cloud-native enterprise SaaS company.

- Recruited and mentored eight engineers and one manager, with responsibility for performance reviews, compensation decisions, delivery standards, staffing, architecture, and roadmap execution.
- Directed a distributed Agile organization through production launch for four large customers, including the U.S. Departments of State and Education.
- Designed forecasting, machine-learning, optimization, and scheduling capabilities integrated with Amazon Connect, Genesys, and Talkdesk.

Sr. Director, Data Analytics & Operations | TriMark USA | Mansfield, MA | Aug 2021 to May 2022

Built the cloud data organization and operating model supporting enterprise analytics across a \$1B+ company and 11 divisions.

- Upskilled an initial four-person analytics team and expanded it into a seven-member AWS engineering organization with additional contractors.
- Aligned executives around more than 50 use cases and delivered the first enterprise data lake within ten months, reducing reporting from roughly two months to one day.

- Owned staffing, performance reviews, architecture, delivery planning, risk, change management, executive reporting, and cross-functional priorities.

Engineering Lead, Cloud Data Privacy & AI Governance | MassMutual | Boston, MA | Nov 2020 to Aug 2021

Led architecture and engineering across privacy, governance, Responsible AI, data, and cloud initiatives in a regulated enterprise.

- Guided five initiatives spanning policy automation, model transparency, bias, drift, monitoring, human oversight, auditability, data governance, and governance APIs.
- Partnered with Enterprise Architecture and SRE on AWS, security, IAM, CI/CD, event-driven, container, and infrastructure-as-code standards.
- Delivered a cloud-native privacy platform within eight months that automated approximately 90% of a formerly manual workflow.

VP of AI/ML | NorthBay Solutions | Boston, MA | Jan 2019 to Nov 2020 | (Role ended in company-wide COVID layoff).

Recruited from AWS by the CEO to build an enterprise AI/ML consulting practice and reusable cloud delivery capabilities.

- Led an 18-person distributed engineering team delivering the Data Lake Accelerator while remaining hands-on in initial product architecture and implementation.
- Advised enterprise clients on AI, ML, data, platform strategy, architecture, and production delivery across concurrent consulting engagements.
- Combined executive advisory, staffing, reusable standards, cloud architectures, and production systems for enterprise customers.

Sr. Specialist Solutions Architect, AI/ML & Big Data | Amazon Web Services | Boston, MA | May 2015 to Dec 2018

Helped establish and scale AWS AI/ML and data specialist capability while advising enterprise customers on production adoption.

- Advised more than 200 enterprises across North America on AI/ML, data platforms, architecture, governance, cloud adoption, and business outcomes.
- Founded and led technical communities totaling 180+ specialists, created 170+ enablement assets, and established standards and reusable client practices.
- Delivered 36 invited presentations, trained 180+ architects, and earned AWS ML Elite Gold and Platinum recognition.

EARLIER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Built an AWS data-and-ML accelerator hands-on, then directed a 24-person remote team toward enterprise delivery with disciplined technical reviews, accountable release decisions, reusable architecture patterns, transparent risk escalation, cross-functional product alignment, production demonstrations, and iterative customer feedback.
- Directed cloud software for an FDA-cleared connected healthcare product, combining modernization with regulated delivery, cross-functional product coordination, secure data services, launch readiness, and reliable cloud operations.

EDUCATION & RECOGNITION

Ph.D., Molecular Biology / Microbiology & Immunology, University of Western Ontario. AWS ML Elite Gold and Platinum; AWS re:Invent Rockstar; named inventor on multiple patents.

TECHNOLOGIES

engineering management • player-coach management • AI platforms • data platforms • agentic ingestion • LLMs • RAG • MCP • Python • SQL • Databricks • FastAPI • REST APIs • PostgreSQL • PGVector • data modeling • data lineage • data governance • workflow orchestration • ML-backed products • MLOps • AI evaluation • auditability • Responsible AI • observability • security • IAM • multi-tenant SaaS • tenant isolation • AWS • SageMaker • Amazon Bedrock • Spark • PySpark • data lakes • Docker • Kubernetes • AWS CDK • infrastructure as code • CI/CD • phased delivery • production readiness • distributed teams • performance management • AI-assisted coding