

# Vishnu Gopal

L-51 LIC Lane, Pattom PO, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 695004.

Tel: +919846819066 [vg@vishnugopal.com](mailto:vg@vishnugopal.com)

## PROFILE

I'm an engineer with strong product & user-experience skills, with experience in product development, web development, and engineering management. I was part of the initial team that built SlideShare Inc., which then went on to be acquired by LinkedIn. I've led technology teams at two companies and have worked in the product engineering space for over ten years.

## EXPERIENCE

**Senior Engineering Manager, Automattic. Remote. [www.automattic.com](http://www.automattic.com) 2021-**

I am leading a small team of backend and frontend engineers located in six countries, and we're working on improving the importing and exporting experience of WordPress.com. All of our code contributions are open source, and impacts millions of WordPress users all over the globe.

**Principal Frontend Engineer, Doist. Remote. [www.doist.com](http://www.doist.com). 2020-2021**

I was part of a small team responsible for the cross-functional frontend stack at Doist, and I've worked and deployed several features in Todoist: a personal task management solution, and Twist: a remote-friendly alternative to Slack, and other open source projects at Doist including building a design system.

**AVP, Engineering SAFE Security. New Delhi, India. [www.safe.security](http://www.safe.security). 2019-2020**

At SAFE, I led a platforms team that re-architected a security quantification product. The team worked horizontally to drive architecture, developer experience, performance, scalability and reliability initiatives across the company, and we had great success refactoring a PHP monolith into smaller micro-services. I also hired for and built a team that developed a new product from scratch on a modern React & NodeJS stack.

**CTO, Pupilfirst. Bangalore, India. [www.pupilfirst.com](http://www.pupilfirst.com). 2015-2018**

Pupilfirst is an online product school that helps students in college build real digital products. I led both the technology and product teams at the company, and built up the product development, engineering & product management and program development processes from scratch over 3 years.

**CTO, MobME Wireless Solutions. Kochi, India. 2011-2015**

MobME Wireless is a mobile & web company that I joined as one of the first few employees in 2011. I led a team of over 50 engineers in a wide variety of tasks: mVAS solutions through SMS, and Voice channels that had more than a million users a day. I was also part of the team that incubated products at 2 subsidiary companies: Chillr (acquired by Truecaller) and Hatio (acquired by Billdesk).

**Software Engineer, DataSift. Reading, UK. [www.datasift.com](http://www.datasift.com). 2010-2011**

I was part of the team that prototyped the initial version of DataSift, an enterprise search engine for realtime feeds from Twitter and Facebook. The solution involved filtering the realtime firehose of Twitter by writing a parser engine to filter tweets.

**Software Engineer, SlideShare Inc. New Delhi, India. [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net). 2006-2008**

SlideShare was one of the first successful product startups to come out of India. I built the initial version of the powerpoint conversion stack and architected the web application to survive multiple spikes in load.

## EDUCATION

**UCL Interaction Centre, University College London. London, UK.**

Post-Graduate Diploma in Human-Computer Interaction with Ergonomics. 2010-2011.

**Sree Chitra Thirunal College of Engineering. Kerala, India.**

Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering. 2002-2006.

## SKILLS

### **Programming & Software Architecture**

Expert skills in several scripting languages: JavaScript, Ruby, and PHP—with several deployed applications in each. I am a programming language aficionado and regularly try new languages (the most recent of which was ReScript). I've also designed applications from the ground up to have minimal technical debt, to handle spike load & to be resilient to threat scenarios.

### **Product Owner & Engineering Management**

Expert skills in engineering management and day-to-day engineering coaching. I'm an engineering lead who has managed teams at small startups & at medium enterprises with L2 engineering manager reports. I can envision & execute ideation, wire-framing, prototyping, development, and launch.

### **User Experience Design**

Moderate skills in HTML and CSS web design. I am not a visual designer, but I can iterate to a good design or develop a consistent style guide. I've completed a masters-equivalent course in Human-Computer Interaction and I can understand and apply principles related to good UX.

## SOCIAL

I blog at [vishnugopal.com](http://vishnugopal.com), and am available on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Github](#) as vishnugopal.