

# Orion Kindel

Engineering Leader • Scalable Systems Architect • Open-Source Advocate

Passionate about creating educational content to evangelize modern tools and practices, while actively growing in mentorship, team leadership, and business leadership roles. Dedicated to fostering open-source communities and contributing to impactful organizations.

Chicago, IL · +1 989 443 0197 · orionkindel@gmail.com · git.orionkindel.com · github.com/cakekindel · meetup.com/chicago-rust-meetup · linkedin.com/in/orion-kindel

---

## Technical Skills

---

- **Languages:** Haskell, Purescript, Rust, OCaml, Python, JavaScript/TypeScript
- **Infrastructure:** AWS, Linux, CI/CD, Kubernetes, Docker
- **Databases:** PostgreSQL, SQL, NoSQL
- **Architecture:** Event-driven systems, microservices, monoliths
- **Leadership & Process:** Agile, Scrum, mentoring, hiring
- **Version Control:** Expert in Git, GitHub, and self-hosted Gitea instances, including mirroring and automated workflows.

## Community Leadership

---

- Revived the Chicago Rust Meetup chapter post-pandemic by networking with the VP of Technology at Google to secure contributor access.
- Organized a series of in-person happy-hour meetups, growing attendance from 2 to over 40 regular participants within a year.
- Fostered a collaborative and welcoming environment, re-establishing the group as a hub for Rust developers in the Chicago area.
- Authored several blog posts on Rust, Typescript & pattern matching, which collectively gained 50,000 views on Medium, engaging a global audience with actionable guides, leading to improved adoption of Rust and functional programming.
- Regularly attend non-domain-specific tech meetups, serving as a community pillar and mentor to 20+ aspiring developers on career advice, technical skills and open-source contributions.

## Experience

---

### Founder, CTO • LÜM Ventures

Chicago IL, July 2024 - Present

Architected and led the development of a full-stack **Purescript** MVP, balancing rapid delivery with long-term scalability and maintainability. Built a solid foundation with **automated testing, monitoring, and zero tech debt**, ensuring seamless expansion into the full platform vision.

#### Key Contributions

- **Scalable, Maintainable Full-Stack Architecture**
  - Designed a robust FRP-based frontend with monadic composition, enabling fine-grained state management and complex dependency resolution.
  - Engineered a metaprogramming-powered backend that minimizes boilerplate while supporting rich, complex REST semantics.
  - Ensured strict type safety between the frontend and API, preventing contract violations when deployed together.
- **Future-Proof Database & API Design**
  - Built a 4NF PostgreSQL schema with modularity and pivot flexibility, supporting the full platform roadmap.

- Developed a bespoke migration system, ensuring seamless schema evolution without external dependencies.
- Defined an OpenAPI + JSON Schema REST API, incorporating HATEOAS-style linked data for enhanced discoverability.
- **Reliability, Automation & CI/CD**
  - Scaffolding from day one included unit & end-to-end tests, liveness checks, and real-time monitoring, ensuring stability and observability.
  - Implemented full CI/CD with automated deployments, minimizing overhead for iteration.
  - Built an ephemeral test environment system, allowing isolated, instant database instances for high-speed automated testing.
- **Open-Source Contributions & Thought Leadership**
  - Authored technical blog posts on functional programming, Rust, Typescript, sharing insights with the developer community and demonstrating expertise.
  - Published multiple Purescript libraries as part of MVP development, contributing back to the ecosystem.
  - Advocated for FOSS involvement, ensuring company culture aligns with open-source best practices.
  - Trained a junior engineer with no prior FP experience, making them productive in Purescript within a month.
- **Business & Product Strategy**
  - Defined and continually refined product vision and roadmap, validating through hands-on customer feedback.
  - Led business development efforts, networking with investors and partners to drive funding and adoption.

## Founder, CTO · Thunderstrike

Chicago, IL • June 2023 – April 2024

Founded and led the development of a full-stack **Purescript** MVP, rapidly iterating on core product hypotheses while balancing technical excellence with delivery. Built a highly scalable, event-driven architecture and established strong **open-source contributions** to the Purescript ecosystem.

### Key Contributions

- **High-Performance Full-Stack Architecture**
  - Developed a **fully type-safe monolithic codebase** in **Purescript**, ensuring long-term maintainability and rapid prototyping.
  - Designed a **JSON DSL for distributed web scraping**, allowing complex behavioral configurations.
  - Built a **robust type-level API contract system**, ensuring **zero API contract mismatches** between backend and frontend.
- **Database & Scalability Enhancements**
  - Engineered a **highly normalized (5NF) PostgreSQL schema**, optimizing for performance and data integrity.
  - Leveraged **PL/pgSQL functions, triggers, and user-defined types** to improve data expressiveness and enforce constraints.
  - Created a **bespoke database migration system**, enabling safe, source-controlled schema evolution.
- **Infrastructure & Event-Driven Processing**
  - Built a **horizontally & vertically scalable distributed web scraper**, processing large-scale data efficiently.
  - Designed **containerized, platform-agnostic infrastructure**, ensuring easy deployment across environments.
  - Implemented **event-driven architecture** for modularity and independent scalability.
- **Open-Source Contributions & Thought Leadership**
  - Developed and published **multiple open-source Purescript libraries**, including:
    - **purescript-postgresql** – Ergonomic PostgreSQL interfacing for FP-based applications.
    - **purescript-node-stream-pipes** – Stream processing utilities for scalable data pipelines.
    - **purescript-url-immutable** – Immutable URL manipulation utilities for REST and API work.
  - Advocated for **FOSS contributions**, establishing a culture of open-source engagement.
- **Business Strategy & Growth**

- Defined and refined **company strategy, product roadmap, and investor pitch**, securing early traction.
- Led networking efforts at **trade shows, meetups, and investor events**, driving industry engagement.
- Mentored **three software engineering interns**, training them in **functional programming** and making them productive in **Purescript within two months**.

## Senior Software Engineering Team Lead · Qwick

*Phoenix, AZ • February 2021 – March 2023*

Led the engineering team at Qwick, where I drove the architecture and implementation of scalable, high-performance systems. Spearheaded initiatives that improved system reliability and streamlined engineering workflows, resulting in a 40% increase in velocity and a significant improvement in service reliability.

### Key Contributions

- **Scalable Architecture & Performance Optimization**
  - Led the transformation of Qwick's monolithic system into a **distributed microservices architecture**, improving scalability and deployability.
  - Implemented **event-driven architecture**, decoupling services for independent scalability and reducing system bottlenecks.
  - Optimized system performance by introducing **automated performance testing**, reducing average response times by 35%.
- **Reliability & Automation**
  - Led the **migration to Kubernetes**, enabling more reliable container orchestration and horizontal scaling of applications.
  - Spearheaded the implementation of **automated testing** for unit, integration, and end-to-end testing, improving release cycles.
  - Developed and maintained CI/CD pipelines, reducing deployment times by 60%.
- **Team Leadership & Mentorship**
  - Managed and mentored a team of **5+ software engineers**, fostering an environment of growth, collaboration, and innovation.
  - Implemented **Agile/Scrum processes**, resulting in a 40% increase in sprint velocity and improving team satisfaction.
  - Organized **weekly code review sessions**, improving code quality and ensuring adherence to best practices.
- **Cross-functional Collaboration**
  - Collaborated closely with **product managers** and **designers** to define features and product requirements, ensuring alignment with customer needs.
  - Worked directly with the **CTO** to refine the company's technical vision, roadmap, and strategic goals.
  - Coordinated with **stakeholders** to gather feedback and refine development processes, ensuring that the product roadmap aligned with business objectives.

## Software Engineering Team Lead · TheoremOne

*Global • April 2020 – February 2021*

Led two engineering teams in the successful delivery of high-quality, scalable software solutions for enterprise clients. Architected cloud-based systems on AWS and implemented best practices that significantly improved both development efficiency and product quality.

## Software Engineer · StrongMind

*Phoenix, AZ • March 2017 – April 2020*

Contributed to the design and development of distributed systems and applications, focusing on educational technology. Key responsibilities included optimizing processes and system performance, and enhancing development efficiency.

# Education

---

## **Associate's of Science**

*Scottsdale Community College, Awarded 2016*