

Rakesh Androtula

Head of Product Engineering

+91 7799286164 | rakesh.androtula@gmail.com | Hyderabad | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/rakeshandrotula

Summary

Business-aligned Product & Engineering Leader with **20+ years** of experience scaling high-availability **Fintech** and **SaaS** platforms serving **16M+** active users. Expert in driving **53%** customer adoption growth and leading **AI-led** transformations that reduced **600K+** monthly support calls.

A strategic catalyst for Global Capability Centers (**GCCs**), having successfully shifted ownership models from **60:40** to **40:60 (Region:India)**. Proven ability to step into high-level **leadership** roles, maintaining operational tempo and team stability through **critical organizational transitions**.

Core Competencies

- **Strategic Leadership:** GCC Capability Maturity, Global Mandate Ownership, Workforce Planning.
- **Engineering Management:** Managing Managers (3-4 EMs), High-Performance Culture, Mentorship.
- **Technical Strategy:** RAG & GenAI Architecture, Cloud-Native Modernization, Infrastructure ROI.
- **Compliance & Governance:** GDPR (EU), CCPA (US), Privacy-Safe AI, Cost Governance.

Strategic Leadership & Global Impact

- **Global Capability Pivot:** Spearheaded the strategic rebalancing of engineering ownership from a **60:40 (Global:India)** ratio to a **40:60 (Global:India)** model. Successfully established the Hyderabad center as the primary driver for global architectural decisions and product roadmaps.
- **Transitional Leadership & Continuity:** Stepped into **senior leadership** shoes during organizational shifts, assuming direct management of **4 Engineering Managers** and a **90+ member** organization. Ensured the "tempo" of delivery remained unchanged, providing a stable environment where team members felt supported and empowered despite the absence of previous leadership layers.
- **Talent Engineering:** Transformed the India site into a **high-performance** hub by identifying and **hiring** "correct-fit" talent; achieved **75%** of annual hiring targets within a single quarter while maintaining zero disruption to culture.
- **Regulatory Mastery:** Ensured **100%** compliance with **GDPR** and **CCPA** standards across global product lines, integrating privacy-first controls into AI and data retrieval layers.

Professional Experience

Head of Product Engineering | Experian | May 2024 - Present | Hyderabad (GIC)

- **Product Growth:** Increased customer adoption by **53%** (30K → 46K) through data-driven enhancements and high-velocity A/B testing.
- **AI Transformation:** Architected and deployed a GenAI Virtual Assistant using RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation), reducing support volume by **600K+** calls/month.
- **Cost Governance:** Avoided **\$19K/month** (**\$228K/year**) in infrastructure costs by leveraging cross-region Neptune DB deployments instead of provisioning new instances.
- Mentored engineers, led **tech talks**, and fostered a culture of ownership and continuous improvement.
- Championed **A/B testing** and analytics-driven development to enhance user engagement.
- Streamlined development workflows and optimized deployment cadence.
- Mentored interns and **new hires**, collaborated with recruitment teams and participated in **college hiring** programs to attract high-potential engineering talent.
- Implementing ML-based personalization and **Gen AI** use cases for predictive user flows.

Engineering Manager | Outplay | May 2022 - Apr 2024 | Hyderabad

- **SaaS Scale:** Led a **40-member** team for a multi-tenant SaaS platform serving **1M+** users, implemented **microservices** and **Kafka** for real-time event processing.
- **Quality Engineering:** Strengthened CI/CD pipelines and **automated** testing frameworks, resulting in a **30%** reduction in production defect leakage.

Technical Architect | Coforge | Nov 2021 - May 2022 | Hyderabad

- Designed and architected an **API-first, event-driven** system for real-time transactions.
- Converted legacy **ETL** packages into scalable **RESTful** services using a modern architectural approach.
- Architected cloud-native solutions with forward-looking migration strategies

Project Lead / Solution Architect | Applied Info Services | Dec 2014 - Nov 2021 | Hyderabad

- Migrated legacy .NET applications to microservices and containerized them for deployment on Azure.
- Delivered enterprise-grade Azure PaaS solutions and developed mobile applications using Xamarin.
- Implemented workflow automation and alert systems using MS Teams to improve team communication and response times

Programmer Analyst | Franklin Templeton Investments | Dec 2014-Nov 2021 | Hyderabad

- Developed scalable web applications using ASP.NET MVC and SQL Server
- Modernized legacy VB6 apps into .NET Windows applications
- Built notification systems for print order workflows

IT Engineer | CMC Ltd. | Aug 2006 - Dec 2014 | Hyderabad

- Developed Windows and Web applications using .NET framework.

Key Skills

Strategic Leadership: OKR Development & Execution, Team Building, Mentorship, Organizational Scaling, Budget & Resource Management, Stakeholder Communication

Technical Expertise: Cloud-Native Architecture (AWS, Azure), Microservices, Gen AI/ML, SaaS, APIs, CI/CD, Kubernetes, .NET Core, Golang, React, Angular, Dart, Flutter, Xamarin, Swift & Kotlin

Product & Operations: Agile Methodologies, Product-Led Growth, Analytics & A/B Testing, Release Management, Infrastructure Cost Optimization

Education & Certifications

B.Tech - Intell Engineering College, Affiliated to JNTU Hyderabad

Certifications:

- AZ-300: Microsoft Azure Architect Technologies
- 70-480: Programming in HTML5 with JavaScript and CSS3
- 70-486: Developing ASP.NET MVC Web Application