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Pete Rai
Principal Engineer

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ABOUT ME

I'm a software engineer by training, experience and passion.

I've been "hands-on" on everything from embedded to cloud. I've led high-stakes projects and large international teams - often working with challenging requirements and meeting improbable deadlines.

These days, my focus is on strategy and innovation, especially in the areas of data, AI adoption and responsible AI.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Member of techUK's AI and Data Leadership Committee.

Founder of Cisco's Aspire mentoring programme for underachieving children.

Co-Founder of Cisco's Machine Learning for Young Women.

Co-Author of the UCL paper Towards Algorithm Auditing: A Survey on Managing Legal, Ethical and Technological Risks of AI and ML.

Author of more than two dozen patents, with more on the way.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science with Maths, Brunel University, 1990.

LINKS

Web, LinkedIn, GitHub, YouTube, CodePen, NPM

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Cisco » Principal Engineer
2013 - Present

In my role in the Emerging Technologies and Incubation group, I develop solutions capitalizing on new market opportunities unlocked by technology advancements.

Inevitably, the focus is on transformative AI, especially in driving innovation and adoption of large language models to achieve significant productivity gains in both the public and private sectors.

I lead development teams, collaborating closely with domain experts to transform early market possibilities into tangible, operational systems. Leading by example, I spend much of my time writing cloud-native applications and coding across the development stack.

A key aspect of my role involves performing technical evaluations on a range of platforms, technologies and companies. I then present complex choices in simple ways to key decision-makers, both inside and outside the company. This includes especially aligning the expectations of stakeholders regarding key technologies like AI with what is practical, achievable and capable.

Additionally, I am part of Cisco's Responsible AI team, helping to shape Cisco's ethical AI development framework.

My responsibilities include serving as a technical advisor to our Government Affairs group. In this capacity, I represent Cisco in various forums, engaging in dialogue with legislators and regulators to advocate for responsible and achievable AI practices.

Working with our university team, I also assist with our academic engagement programs, focusing both on skills and research. I am part of a group that approves Cisco's research grants, with my focus specifically on responsible AI studies.

NDS » Technical Director
1998 - 2013

NDS was a leading supplier of technology for the digital television industry.

I worked in engineering and leadership roles on all aspects of the software stack from highly performant and available server-side components, recommendation systems, consumer-facing websites and set-top-box programme guides.

Other Employment
1988 - 1998

Thompson Reuters	»	Senior Software Engineer
ASTA / Elecosoft	»	Software Engineer
ICL / STC	»	Junior Software Engineer
IBM	»	Junior Software Engineer