

Ivan Rahman

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Senior technology leader with 15+ years of experience in technology transformation and project management, seeking a Product Leader role. Proven ability to lead and manage cross-functional teams, drive technical direction and strategy, and implement modernization initiatives using Node.js, Docker, Kubernetes, and AWS. Adept at Agile transformations and AI-driven product development to enhance operational efficiency, innovation, and product growth.

Work Experience

Founder & Managing Director

Sync Ops

June 2024 to Present

- Coached startups on MVP launches, focusing on product discovery, UX/UI, user research, and AI insights.
- Provided guidance to startups on AI technologies and prompt engineering for tools like Replit, Cursor, ChatGPT Pro and Llama.
- Researched and analyzed emerging AI technologies for product development and innovation opportunities.
- Worked with founders and CEOs to identify opportunities, craft compelling narratives, and find solutions with Product Market Fit (PMF).

Assistant Director, Product Management & Software Engineering

Northwestern Mutual

September 2021 to April 2024

- Spearheaded cross-functional initiatives, collaborating with UX/UI designers, product management, and data science to align user experience with privacy, security, and business goals, driving product adoption and revenue growth.
- Led DevOps transformations, implementing CI/CD pipelines and collaborating with engineering teams to launch high-security fintech products, ensuring seamless integration and scalability while managing high transaction volumes.
- Partnered with Sales to cultivate strong relationships with key clients, understanding their needs and aligning product development with revenue goals.
- Maintained operational excellence by collaborating with engineering teams on hardware and software integration, ensuring 99.9% SLA compliance and emphasizing privacy and reliability.

Product Design Team Lead, Digital Innovation

Northwestern Mutual

March 2020 to September 2021

- Led a team of six product designers in rapid experimentation, driving 10+ validated use cases across compliance, sales, and fintech solutions.
- Designed UX/UI for DTC innovations, enabling saving, investment, and fintech integrations such as payments and banking-as-a-service to expand client offerings.
- Championed the adoption of Mural, scaling it from a 20-user beta to an enterprise-wide 2,000-user solution, enhancing collaboration across teams.
- Facilitated executive ideation workshops, helping senior leadership identify and prioritize high-impact digital initiatives.
- Established best practices for user research, prototyping, and validation, streamlining design processes for faster iteration.
- Partnered with cross-functional teams to align product vision with business goals, improving adoption and engagement metrics.

Digital Innovation Research Analyst

Northwestern Mutual

July 2017 to March 2020

- Conducted research on AI, machine learning, and blockchain technologies, leading to improved fraud detection capabilities.
- Authored a comprehensive sentiment analysis research report that guided the strategic deployment of fraud detection tools, contributing to a CIO 100 Award for Innovation in 2019.
- Collaborated with cross-departmental teams to assess emerging technologies for scalable implementation.
- Researched and identified startups from top accelerators, including Techstars, YC and Greylock Partners, enabling their integration into the enterprise.
- Conducted financial evaluations of startups and helped run the Milwaukee Reverse Pitch competition, matching senior executives with startups to solve problems.
- Collaborated with Payments and Money Movement teams to integrate startup solutions.
- Presented to C-level leaders and led research efforts exploring AI, Machine Learning, and NLP solutions.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Digital Marketing Internship | ACTS Housing and Strongblocks Milwaukee

- Developed a comprehensive digital marketing plan to increase brand awareness, engagement, and lead generation.
- Collaborated with third-party solutions to design and develop a user-friendly website and establish a strong social media presence.

Program Coordinator | Milwaukee Community Service Corps (AmeriCorps)

- Designed and delivered training programs for the Department of Labor YouthBuild initiative, facilitating the acquisition of \$1.3 million in funding.
- Enhanced program effectiveness by implementing comprehensive training strategies, significantly contributing to the program's success.

Education

Master of Science in Graphic Communication, Carroll University

Bachelor of Science in Business & Leadership, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Skills

- **Leadership & Coaching:** Ability to inspire, motivate, and guide engineering teams to achieve their full potential.
- **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Proven ability to work effectively with cross-functional teams to deliver successful products.
- **Agile Product Management:** Expertise in Agile methodologies and their application to software development.
- **User-Centered Design & Discovery:** Strong focus on understanding user needs and designing products that meet those needs.
- **Data-Driven Analytics:** Ability to leverage data to inform product decisions and drive growth.
- **CI/CD | DevOps:** Experience with CI/CD practices and DevOps culture.
- **UX/UI:** Understanding of UX/UI principles and their impact on product success.

Certifications and Licenses

Rare Leadership Accelerator, Google Rare Leadership Academy

Design Thinking Practitioner, Cornell University

Python Programming Bootcamp, General Assembly