

About me

Nikolay Gekht

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Authorized to work in the US for any employer



Summary

CTO, cofounder, and technology leader with 30+ years of experience delivering high-stakes software and digital platforms in FinTech, SaaS, and complex B2B environments. Built and led engineering organizations of 250+ people, managed project portfolios with \$100M+ total budget, and helped client companies generate over \$4.5B in combined revenue.

Today I work with CEOs of 20–500 person organizations (\$10M - \$100M revenue) that have either failing or fragile tech or are just starting their digital/AI journey. I align technology with strategy, design pragmatic roadmaps, build and mentor teams, and consolidate scattered vendors and projects into a single, accountable delivery function.

What you get when I'm on board:

- Predictable delivery aligned with business priorities, budget, and deadlines;
- Technology decisions driven by measurable outcomes, not opinions;
- Processes that meet industry standards and scale with your company;
- A pragmatic tech stack that supports growth without chasing trends.

I work as a CTO/CIO for SMBs and as a project, product, or portfolio leader in larger organizations. My focus is simple: to make technology consistently and safely support the business.

I am not a hands-off manager. I work as a “player-coach”: comfortable setting direction, priorities, and guardrails, but equally ready to step in and do the work when it matters. When teams need extra hands, clarity, or momentum, I do not hesitate to roll up my sleeves and help analysts, engineers, or delivery leads directly, reviewing designs, unblocking technical issues, or contributing where experience can save time and risk. This keeps decisions grounded in reality and builds trust through shared responsibility, not distance.

Selected Impact Highlights

- Led and advised on a portfolio of technology projects with **cumulative budgets exceeding \$100M**, enabling client companies to generate **over \$4.5B** in combined revenue.
- Built and led the engineering organization behind **FXCM's Trading Station II and Marketscope 2.0** – award-winning retail FX trading and charting platforms used by hundreds of thousands of traders and processing millions of trades per month.
- Directed the high-load integration for **CNBC's Million Dollar Portfolio Challenge**, connecting trading infrastructure with CNBC's ecosystem in under 3 months and supporting hundreds of thousands of contestants without major incidents.
- Led delivery of a **crypto-to-accounting platform** that automated processing of up to **1M+ crypto transactions per client per year**, reducing CPA effort and cost by up to **75%** (weeks of work down to minutes).
- Provided executive-level technology leadership for a **multi-asset trading SuperApp** (Tradu): Account Portal enabling unified access to stocks, CFDs, crypto, and wallets via single login and instant internal transfers, now live with large-scale mobile adoption and top-tier app ratings.
- Managed and developed high-performing engineering teams (from early-stage startups to 250+ person orgs) across multiple locations and vendors, consistently improving reliability, speed of delivery, and transparency for non-technical executives.

Core Management Competencies

Technology Leadership	Software Development Oversight	People Management
Project Lifecycle Management	New Product Launch	Multicultural Team Leadership
Budget Management	Agile Methodologies	Staff Mentoring and Coaching
Agile Transformation	Servant Leadership	Talent Acquisition
DevOps Transformation	Teaching, coaching and mentoring	Supplier Management
Change Management	Organizational Development	Stakeholders' Collaboration
Strategic Thinking	Lean Management	
Strategic Planning & Execution		
IT Security		
IT Process Management		

Core Technical Competencies

C#	Generic RDBMS/SQL	Client-server architectures
C++	MSSQL	SOA and microservices
Java	Oracle	Cloud applications
Go	Posgres	CI/CD
	MongoDB	Generative AI
		Agenting Coding

Work Experience

Founder, Managing Partner Gehtsoft USA LLC. Raleigh, NC

September 2008-Present

In this role I delivered insightful leadership and guidance to meet software development needs for industry-leading organizations, including FXCM, E*Trade, Deutsche Bank, Refco, Massimo-Zanetti, and Barclays. I developed high-performing teams which drove transformative technology initiatives across multiple industries. I expanded the company operations by opening two offices of the company in the US, New Jersey in 2008 and North Carolina in 2011.

My Achievements

- Directed a large portfolio of 20+ enterprise-level projects. These feature budgets of over \$50 million and have a code base of more than five million lines of code.
- Spearheaded company Agile transformation. The transformation enhanced overall efficiency by reducing the time to market for user requests from months to weeks and dramatically increased customer satisfaction. It was made possible by teaching, coaching and mentoring teams on Scrum, Nexus, and Management 3.0 practices.
- Created the system to recruit and manage more than 300 software developers worldwide, with the largest team consisting of approximately 120 developers.
- Oversaw more than 50 different subcontractor companies across the USA, Eastern Europe, and ex-USSR countries. I created a uniform, collaborative, cross-cultural environment where teams distributed around the world can efficiently contribute to one family of products.
- Supported the technical side of FXCM's spectacular growth, becoming the largest Forex broker by 2010 by creating, assisting, and facilitating the development teams.
- Teams, that I created, served the software needs of various industries, from rural coffee plantations in Hawaii to the New York Stock Exchange floor.
- As a teacher and mentor, instructed more than 200 project managers, product owners, and software developers, delivering courses from recognized providers (Microsoft, IBM), and my own custom courses (Algorithms & Data Structures, C# and .NET, Requirements Management, Technical Writing, Agile Scrum Mastery, and Agile Product Ownership).
- Organized and orchestrated a move to the US in 2008, opening an office in New Jersey and then expanding the operations to North Carolina in 2011.
- Drove company volume worth five times what it was in 2008 by creating, teaching and mentoring the leadership team.

Cofounder

The Agile Bulletin (Seasonal)
2023–Present · Raleigh, NC

Co-founded a “from the people, for the people” Agile magazine, curating practitioner-driven content and building an engaged community of Agile professionals.

You can download 2023, 2024 and 2025 issues at <https://www.agilebulletin.org/>

Fractional CTO & Technology Advisor (Contract) (2010 till now)**Topsy Corp**

2023–Present

Built and led a high-performing remote engineering team, taking the product from concept to production. Owned architecture, cloud infrastructure, and delivery practices while aligning the technology roadmap with business and growth goals.

- Delivered the first live users in **under 3 months** from the start of the engagement.
- Established end-to-end architecture and DevOps pipeline to support secure, scalable releases.
- Translated business strategy into a prioritized roadmap and realistic delivery plan.

Swiftly, Austin, Texas

November 2022 to 2023

Technology lead for a concierge-as-a-service startup, responsible for team formation, architecture, and driving the product from idea to market-ready solution.

- Assembled and led a remote team to deliver the first core release in 3 weeks.
- Achieved first live users in under 3 months, moving from concept to real-world validation quickly.
- Defined architecture and delivery approach to support future feature expansion and integrations.

Product Management Consultant (Contract)

268th Labs, USA/Russia

May 2020 to Jul 2022

Brought structure and delivery discipline to the indie game [Pathogenesis Overcome](#).

- Turned scattered creative ideas into a clear product vision, roadmap, and delivery flow.
- Introduced practical Agile/product management practices that enabled the team to ship and iterate instead of remaining stuck in ideation.

I established product management process in the game development start-up and assisted development of.

Director of Software Engineering (Contract)

VeraDaniel & Co, Paramus, New Jersey

March 2013 to November 2016

My role was to support the mission of this start-up company to connect developing economies of Africa to venture capital in the US.

I was accountable for creating the product development process, the IT operations and to for creating the product itself.

I created and led the team of 10 exceptional professionals that successfully developed and supported the unique product on the developing market.

Director of Software Engineering (Contract)

Tradefolio, New York, New York

February 2011 to January 2013

Tradefolio was an innovative start-up geared to create the first millennial-oriented trading experience. My role was to lead the development of a first-of-a-kind social-based platform for Forex Trading.

I created and led the team of 8 exceptional professionals that successfully developed and supported the unique product on the developing market. I optimized the budget of the product by managing sub-contractors in order to provide the best possible quality and performance to cost ratio.

Pre 2008

I have worked as a software developer, and project manager since 1992. I've started from PDP-11 and x86 assembler and grew all the way to modern development together with industry.

Education**Bachelor's degree in Computer Science**

Omsk State Technical University, Omsk, Russia

September 1990 to May 1995

Professional State Exam Grade: Excellent

Graduation Work Grade: Excellent

GPA: 3.6

Certifications

- Scrum.org Professional Scrum Master 3 (PSM 3)¹
- Scrum.org Professional Scrum Product Owner 2 (PSPO 2)
- Scrum.org Professional Scrum Developer (PSD)
- Scrum.org Scaled Professional Scrum (SPS)
- PMI-ACP (Agile Certified Professional)
- PMI-DAVSC (Disciplined Agile Value Stream Consultant)
- PMI-DASSM (Disciplined Agile Senior Scrum Master)
- PMI Hybrid Project Management
- Microsoft Azure Developer (AZ-204)
- Microsoft Certified Software Developer (MCSD)
- Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) Alumni
- ICAgile Authorized Instructor
- ICAgile ATF (Agile Team Facilitation)
- ICAgile ACC (Agile Coaching)
- ICAgile BAF (Business Agility)
- CompTIA CTT+ (Certified Technical Trainer)
- TBR-VE (Training from the Back of the Room Practitioner)
- LSBB Lean Six Sigma Black Belt

Mentorship & Teaching

2020–2022 — Women in Agile and Technology (Agile Alliance & AgileVirgin)

Mentor and instructor in an international program supporting women and minority IT professionals in India. Guided participants through Agile foundations, team practices, and career development.

2020-2025 — Microsoft, ICAgile

I delivered multiple certification courses on C#, Azure and Agile topics as Microsoft Certified Trainer and ICAgile Authorized Instructor.

2022–2025 — Agile Mentorship TO (Canada)

Served as mentor and instructor in a post-COVID Agile mentorship initiative. Helped professionals adapt to new delivery realities, strengthen practical Agile skills, and participate in sustainability-focused programs.

¹ Just one number: In past 10 years [only 1200 people](#) passed this exam. All of them demonstrated exceptional knowledge and ability to explain Agile and Scrum under in a high-stake stressful situation.

Publications

[The Number One Secret to Delivering High-Value API to Customers](#)

USA Wire, February 2022

[Develop a Culture of Transparency & Openness with the Salary Formula](#)

Modern Professional, July 2021

[How To Be a Leader Not Just a Manager Even Working From Home](#)

Global Trade Magazine, April 2021

Problem of Trust or Stop Putting Last Nail into Agile Coffin

[Agile Bulletin, 2024](#) Pg 32

Of Looms and LLMs: Cautionary Tale About GenAI

[Agile Bulletin, 2025](#) Pg 44 (23 in PDF Viewer)

Additional Information

Volunteering

- Since 2020 I participate as a mentor in Women in Agile and Technology mentorship program, supported by AgileVirgin and Agile Alliance.
- In 2014-2017 I participated in various charity events held by 37PSR in support of the US army veterans.

Personal information

- I am a happy father of four, and already a grandfather.
- I enjoy HAM radio, photography, travel, reading and dogs.
- I own 150 acres of land in NC I turned into forest and wildlife preservation.