ATHER SHARIF

Senior Software Engineer · Technical Lead · Architect

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer and Technical Lead with 10+ years of experience architecting cloud-native platforms, enterprise security systems, and large-scale applications. Proven leader of greenfield initiatives, modernization efforts, engineering standards, and cross-functional technical strategy. Expertise in full-stack architecture, frontend engineering, AWS, accessibility, and AI-assisted software engineering. Recognized for driving engineering excellence, modern architecture adoption, and organization-wide technical standards.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science
University of Washington (2024)

M.S. Computer Science
University of Washington (2021)

M.S. Computer Science
Saint Joseph's University (2016)

B.S. Software Engineering
GIK Institute (2011)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Capital One

Nov 2024 – Present

Pathfinder — Technical Lead

- Lead engineer for a high-visibility greenfield platform, directing delivery across a team of five engineers, including peer-level engineers.
- Own end-to-end architecture across frontend, BFF, cloud infrastructure, deployment pipelines, and technical roadmap.
- Partner with Product, Design, Sales, and engineering stakeholders to deliver scalable business solutions.
- Introduced Hexagonal Architecture, ADR governance, AI-assisted testing workflows, and modern engineering practices driven by up-to-date research to improve maintainability, scalability, and developer productivity.
- Developed reusable platform capabilities adopted as organizational Shared Capabilities.
- Lead sprint planning, technical design reviews, stakeholder demonstrations, mentoring, and engineering execution.

Defender — Modernization Lead

- Led modernization of a legacy Angular platform and migration from outdated frontend technologies to a modern architecture.
- Automated previously manual access-management workflows, improving operational efficiency and reducing manual intervention.

Plutus — Frontend Technical Lead

- Led modernization of the self-service payment platform, rebuilding user experiences with modern web technologies while improving maintainability, performance, and developer experience.
- Collaborated closely with product and engineering stakeholders to deliver scalable customer-facing solutions.

Comcast

May 2016 – Jan 2024

Risk Engine — Architect & Technical Lead

- Architect and technical lead for a greenfield enterprise risk-assessment platform responsible for evaluating user access risk across internal Comcast systems.
- Led a seven-person engineering team while owning architecture, delivery planning, implementation strategy, infrastructure design, monitoring, and operational readiness.
- Designed and delivered a cloud-native event-driven architecture leveraging AWS services including SNS, SQS, Lambda, Docker, Kubernetes, and Terraform.
- Influenced Directors, Senior Directors, and Vice Presidents through architecture reviews, prototypes, technical demonstrations, and strategic planning sessions.
- Replaced polling-based vendor integrations with event-driven ingestion patterns, improving scalability, reliability, and operational efficiency.

CodeBig — Frontend Technical Lead

- Frontend technical lead for Comcast's authentication and API gateway platform supporting critical customer-facing internet, television, and voice services.
- Led GraphQL adoption efforts to improve payload efficiency, performance, and maintainability.
- Mentored 5–7 engineers and provided technical leadership across multiple teams.

LEADERSHIP BEYOND WORK

- **Founder — EvoXLabs** (evoxlabs.org)
  Nonprofit advancing accessibility, technology, education, and inclusion initiatives.
- **Creator — VoxLens** (github.com/athersharif/voxlens)
  Award-winning open-source platform improving data visualization accessibility for blind and low-vision users.
- **Creator — UnlockedMaps** (unlockedmaps.com)
  Accessibility-focused platform for mapping the accessibility of urban rail transit systems.
- **Founder — Accessible World Conference**
  Accessibility-focused conference connecting researchers, practitioners, and advocates.
- **Chair, Executive Board — Disability Empowerment Center** (Oct 2020 – Nov 2024)
  Strategic leadership and governance for disability advocacy and empowerment.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS (Full publications list at athersharif.me/publications)

- **Author**, ***Exploring Data Visualization Accessibility***, Springer (2026)
- **36 peer-reviewed publications** on accessibility, human-computer interaction, and data visualization
- **2 Best Paper Awards** from 5 nominations
- **4 Best Artifact Awards**

SELECT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS (Full list at athersharif.me/awards)

Digital Accessibility Award (Individual Category), University of Washington, 2024 • **Husky 100**, University of Washington, 2022 • **Dissertation Fellowship**, Google CMD-IT, 2022 • **Entrepreneurial Leadership Award**, ADA 25 Advancing Leadership, 2021 • **Trailblazer Award**, DO-IT, 2020 • **Geek of the Year**, Philadelphia Geek Awards, 2015 • **Lime Scholarship**, Google, 2015