BRANDON WLAZELEK

Technical Lead II | Distributed Financial Systems, Cloud Platforms & APIs
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Hands-on Technical Lead II with 7+ years of experience architecting and modernizing regulated financial platforms at Vanguard. Leads teams of up to 12 engineers across high-scale APIs, event-driven workflows, and client platforms processing more than 1 million calls per day. Delivered 99.99% uptime, zero Severity 1/2 incidents since January 2025, a 96% latency reduction, multi-region disaster recovery, and measurable operating-cost savings. Deep experience with Java, Python, TypeScript, AWS serverless architecture, observability, production operations, and cross-team technical leadership.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: Java, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Spring Boot 3, Spring 6, Node.js, React, Angular
AWS & Cloud: Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, Aurora, S3, ECS, DMS, CloudFormation, Step Functions, EventBridge, SQS, SNS, Kinesis, Glue, Redshift, Storage Gateway
Architecture: Distributed systems, REST and GraphQL APIs, microservices, event-driven architecture, multi-region active-passive design, enterprise integration, legacy modernization
Data & Delivery: PostgreSQL, relational databases, Liquibase, GitHub, CI/CD, schema migration, automated end-to-end and mutation testing
Reliability & Security: Honeycomb, Splunk, OpenTelemetry, PagerDuty, SLI/SLO design, incident response, disaster-recovery testing, Okta, Auth0, OAuth, RBAC
Leadership: Architecture ownership, technical strategy, code review, technical interviewing, postmortems, cross-team delivery

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vanguard — Technical Lead II
Malvern, PA | July 2025–Present

Vanguard — Technical Lead I
Malvern, PA | March 2023–July 2025

- Lead up to 12 developers across Fully Paid Lending, Margin, automated small-balance debit resolution, and Investor Choice; expanded ownership from two to four products before portfolio growth prompted a two-team organizational split with an additional technical lead and product owner.
- Led 11 developers in architecting and launching Investor Choice, scaling the proxy-voting platform from approximately 1,000 to more than 1 million daily calls; by July 2025, the program supported 82,000+ participating fund shareholders across nearly 14,000 ballot items and 1,300 company shareholder meetings.
- Designed Investor Choice’s active-passive multi-region AWS platform, including an S3-hosted micro frontend launched in June 2026 to improve investor engagement, Lambda SnapStart BFF and core services, Aurora with Liquibase, and Broadridge-integrated batch workflows for account- and fund-level policy elections.
- Engineered self-healing daily reconciliation that compares elections with current positions, removes stale holdings, recovers missed runs, and safely reprocesses vendor deliveries; monitored workflows with PagerDuty, Splunk, and Honeycomb.
- Designed active-passive recovery across us-east-1 and us-west-2 using global endpoints, Route 53, and replicated Aurora, DynamoDB, and S3 data; quarterly chaos exercises demonstrated approximately 15–20 minute regional recovery.

Vanguard — Technical Lead II / Technical Lead I (continued)

- Led 12 developers in designing and operating Fully Paid Lending as an active-active, multi-region API platform using API Gateway, Python Lambda, and DynamoDB, exposing FIS program and revenue data at more than 1 million calls per day; reduced its API latency approximately 96%, from nearly 500 milliseconds to 20 milliseconds, using Honeycomb distributed traces.
- Lead delivery of a digital enrollment site that enables clients to enroll in or leave the Fully Paid Lending program, extending the platform into a self-service client experience.
- Inherited a portfolio with substantial technical debt and reliability issues; strengthened engineering practices, monitoring, runbooks, and platform design to maintain 99.99% uptime and sustain zero Severity 1/2 incidents from January 2025 onward.
- Modernized a daily morning cash-account compliance batch that identifies potential freeriding and late-sale violations, generates cash-due reports, applies required account restrictions, and creates notifications and contact events supporting FINRA cash-account compliance rules; replaced legacy COBOL and stored-procedure processing and delivered $81,575 in business-calculated annualized labor savings.
- Authored the initial architecture for an automated small-balance debit-resolution platform that liquidates mutual-fund holdings to cover client account debit balances under $100, using AWS Glue, DynamoDB-backed APIs and Streams, Lambda, S3, and an Angular UI; enabled a separate delivery team to implement it. The platform processed $2.3 million across 81,100 transactions in five business days.
- Implemented auditable data flows from Aurora through AWS DMS to Redshift and Glue-based validation, plus internal Okta RBAC and external Auth0/OAuth token validation across Lambda and Java services.
- Participated in on-call rotation for a 15-application portfolio, led incident response and postmortems, authored problem records, and presented recurrence-prevention plans while supporting approximately 10–20 production changes per month.
- Initiated a 0-to-1 AI-assisted workflow prototype using Amazon Bedrock, enterprise guardrails, and tool calling; led four contributors from architecture through a working demonstration.
- Conduct technical interviews for Technical Lead and contractor candidates.

Vanguard — Application Developer

Malvern, PA | June 2019–March 2023

- Migrated cost-basis data from a vendor data center to AWS using AWS Database Migration Service, enabling real-time analytics and business-intelligence reporting.
- Decoupled Tax Center capabilities from a legacy monolith into independently deployable microservices, enabling continuous delivery and modern service ownership.
- Built cloud storage and scheduling solutions using CloudFormation, Storage Gateway, S3, and RESTful microservices for investment and withdrawal workflows.
- Won first place at the RTS Hackathon for the Dexter UI prototype, achieved Stack Overflow Top Contributor status, and earned Level 2 Security Champion certification.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Vanguard — IT & Security Risk and Control Intern | Malvern, PA | May 2018–August 2018

BAE Systems — Software Engineer Intern | Wayne, NJ | May 2017–August 2017

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University — Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, May 2019

GPA: 3.22 | Wegmans Scholarship | Decker Scholarship | Dean’s List