

# RAHUL KUMAR

## ENGINEERING LEADER

### CONTACT

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### TECHNOLOGIES

#### Adept

Javascript & Typescript  
React / Preact  
EmberJS  
Node  
GraphQL  
AWS  
GCP  
Kubernetes  
Terraform  
AWS CDK

#### Proficient

Deno  
Python  
PHP  
Java  
SQL

### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Engineering (hons),  
Majoring in Software  
University of Auckland | 2013 -  
2015 on accelerated pathway

### INTERESTS

Formula 1  
Football  
Cars  
New technologies  
Video games

### PROFILE

Personable leader with a passion for building and growing high-performing teams. I foster a culture of autonomy and trust, while providing the support and direction needed to help individuals thrive. I deliver simple, effective solutions that create business value and support strategic goals.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER

[loveholidays](#) | July 2022 - Present

- Formed and now lead the Checkout team (since August 2024), responsible for the full stack checkout experience. Previously led the Search team, looking after the entire holiday buying customer journey.
- This role is 50% hands on to implement and steer the technical direction of the team and 50% hands off, focussed on process, delivery, recruitment, and line management duties.
- Work closely with 5-7 direct reports on career planning and objective setting. Provide guidance & opportunities to help them in their careers.

#### Selected Impact

- Led cross-team delivery of a checkout replatform that drove a 3% conversion uplift and achieved a 4x faster Largest Contentful Paint. Delivered using a server-driven UI approach, modern UX patterns (e.g. optimistic UI to reduce spinners), and a newly designed API contract between backend and frontend systems.
- Led the introduction of taxes and fees into the headline price across the loveholidays platform. Partnered with product, legal, and five engineering teams to design and deliver the rollout ahead of a regulatory deadline.
- Used an experimentation-led approach to customer experience changes, using data to optimise conversion, margin, and overall trading performance.
- Streamlined hiring process across 9+ tech teams by introducing scorecards, automating coding challenges, and clarifying documentation to boost consistency and fairness for candidates.

#### DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEAD

[realestate.co.nz](#) | February 2021 - April 2022

- Led a team (5 developers, QA, PM, design) focused on delivering value to the buyer/renter journeys of the realestate.co.nz platform.
- Actively supported the growth of direct reports through regular coaching and career development.

#### Selected Impact

- Championed frontend performance as part of a company-wide initiative to position realestate.co.nz as the fastest property platform in New Zealand. Delivered this through modernising our build process, optimising CDN caching strategy, and introducing performance monitoring and alerting to catch regressions early.
- Introduced infrastructure as code (using AWS CDK) to strengthen cloud maturity and provide reusable, reliable modules.
- Built an internal CLI to streamline workflows like production deployments and changelog access.
- Modernised the EmberJS codebase with the latest version, patterns, and tooling - improving code quality, consistency, and developer experience.

#### SENIOR DEVELOPER

[realestate.co.nz](#) | October 2020 - February 2021

#### SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Orion Health | April 2020 - October 2020