

JESSE TOLJ

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EXPERIENCE

Engineering Lead

Feb 2022 – Nov 2025

Castos

Remote

- Drove technical strategy for the product roadmap.
- Led and mentored a team of full-stack developers.
- Built a highly scalable and extensible podcast analytics system with Laravel, React, and ClickHouse to replace a legacy codebase that had reached its limits.
- Architected a high-performance audio ad insertion platform using Cloudflare workers.
- Developed a feature enabling customers to accept donations and sell subscriptions on podcast websites.
- Overhauled the multi-region deployment process to use containers. This simplified change management by coupling container updates directly to application versions.
- Achieved a 65% reduction in AWS infrastructure spend through targeted refactoring of hot-path endpoints and implementing a Russian-doll caching strategy with Redis and Cloudflare.

Founder and Principal

Oct 2020 – Feb 2022

TidyDOM

Richmond, VA

- Executed design, development, and marketing of web accessibility testing and monitoring SaaS product.
- Built a scalable, headless crawling and accessibility testing infrastructure using Google Cloud Functions.
- Acquired in 2022; now operates as <https://aaardvarkaccessibility.com>.

Senior Software Engineer

Feb 2017 – Oct 2020

COLAB

Richmond, VA

- Led software architecture and development for SMB and enterprise web applications and marketing sites.
- Notable clients: [Virginia Credit Union](#), [Virginia Public Media](#), [ChenMed](#), Virginia Lottery

Senior Developer

Feb 2014 – Oct 2017

Marker Seven

Richmond, VA / San Francisco, CA

- Worked with clients to scope, architect, and build web applications (Drupal, Laravel, React, Vue).
- Notable clients: Covidien/Medtronic, [Accuray](#), VCU Health, Enterprise Wireless Association.

Information Systems Manager

Jan 2005 – Feb 2014

Virginia Public Media

Richmond, VA

- Managed complex, multi-vendor broadcast integration projects.
- Built critical middleware applications for television automation systems (Python).
- Built a satellite dish scheduling and control system for use in television master control (Python, JavaScript).

SKILLS

Programming Languages: PHP (Laravel, Symfony, Drupal), JavaScript (React, Vue, Svelte, AlpineJS, Vanilla), Python, Go, Bash

Cloud Platforms: AWS, Google Cloud, Cloudflare, DigitalOcean

Tools/Software: Linux, Docker, CI/CD, Nginx, Caddy, ClickHouse, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, Git

EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA

Master of Public Administration, Policy Analysis

- Outstanding Master of Public Administration Award

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA

Bachelor of Science, Sociology & Anthropology

- Cum laude