KEVIN OLSON

Fargo, ND | In-Office, Hybrid, Remote | 10-25% Travel

(612) 850-1252 | kevolson@icloud.com | linkedin.com/in/kevolson | www.thekevinolson.com

VICE PRESIDENT OF TECHNOLOGY | ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT

Modernizing enterprise systems to cut costs, accelerate growth, and enable innovation

Technology leader with 25+ years of experience architecting and delivering enterprise applications, data platforms, and cloud-native solutions across financial services, SaaS, and agriculture. Proven ability to launch and scale high-performance systems—from founding SaaS startups to building mission-critical platforms at multi-billion-dollar hedge funds and the world's largest private company. Equally fluent in both legacy environments and modern stacks such as AWS, React, Datomic, and Clojure, with deep expertise across the full SDLC. Known for aligning technology with business goals, leading cross-functional teams, and driving operational resilience through secure, scalable architecture.

Showing value as a collaborative, inspirational leader:

- **Led data and systems migration for Garda Capital Partners' $2B spinout**, enabling 40+ team to launch on day one with zero data loss or service interruption, supporting 24/7 fixed-income trading across North America and Europe
- **Developed Tempo, a real-time market analytics platform**, reducing position data latency from 30+ minutes to 15 seconds and delivering a firmwide solution that outperformed industry leaders like Citadel
- **Expanded enterprise data warehouse from <100 to 2,000+ Oracle objects**, enabling 25+ fund strategies and supporting $10B+ in AUM growth through scalable architecture and enhanced data modeling

Areas of Expertise

Application Development | Enterprise Architecture | Cloud Platforms (AWS, Azure) | Data Platforms (Oracle, PostgreSQL, Datomic) | Business Intelligence (Tableau) | Disaster Recovery & Continuity | DevOps Tooling | Software Modernization | Startup & Growth-Stage Leadership | Cross-Functional Team Mentorship | Systems Integration | Agile Methodologies | Vendor Management | SDLC Oversight

Technical Acumen

Systems & Platforms: Amazon Web Services (AWS), Amazon Cognito, Apache, Cloudflare, Cygwin, Disaster Recovery, Grafana, Linux, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Datomic, Tomcat, Unisys Mainframe, Unix Shell Scripting, Tibco, RabbitMQ

Software & Applications: Anthropic Claude, Tableau, JIRA, Confluence, Git, Bitbucket, Stripe Connect, Excel, Vim/Neovim, ActiveBatch, TeamCity, Elastic Stack, Subversion, CVS

Languages & Frameworks: Clojure, Java, JavaScript, React, React Native, TypeScript, Python, Bash, PL/SQL, Advanced SQL, HTML/CSS, Node.js, Play Framework, .NET, PHP, WebSocket, jQuery, Struts, XML, Clojurescript, APIs, Batch Processing

Methodologies & Architecture: Enterprise Architecture, Software Solution Architecture, Back-End Development, DevOps, Microservices, Integration, System Design, Web Development, Software Design, Remote Work, LLM Integration, Team Leadership, Trading Systems, Financial Services IT Strategy

Security & Identity Management: SiteMinder, OAuth2, SSO, LDAP, Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)

Professional Experience

FirstLark LLC | Fargo, ND

Founder   **2023 – Present**

Launched a mission-driven SaaS venture focused on modernizing parliamentary governance through real-time, AI-integrated guidance and motion tracking tools.

Key Skills: SaaS Product Development, Functional Programming, Cloud-Native Architecture, Full-Stack Development

- Developed MotionMade, a full-stack SaaS platform covering ~80% of Robert's Rules 12th Edition; enables dynamic, legally compliant meeting workflows, currently in testing with certified parliamentarians.
- Engineered a secure, cloud-native architecture using Clojure, Fulcro, React, Datomic, and AWS (Amplify/Cognito); incorporated OAuth2 authentication and real-time data protocols (WebSockets, Transit).
- Integrated large language model (LLM) functionality to deliver real-time procedural guidance, significantly enhancing usability and reducing compliance risk in live governance environments.
- Drove full product lifecycle, from technical design and hands-on development to marketing site launch and structured feedback loops with early adopters in legal and nonprofit sectors.

Garda Capital Partners | Minneapolis, MN

Senior Solutions Architect   **2016 – 2023**

Reported to the CTO and led architecture, development, and infrastructure initiatives supporting the firm's post-spinout growth and operational maturity across global trading environments.

Key Skills: Application Development, DevOps Management, Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity, Trading Systems

- Directed end-to-end data and systems migration during spinout, coordinating infrastructure, application, and access across two continents, enabling 40+ staff to launch operations with zero data loss or service interruption.
- Developed Tempo, a real-time market analytics platform reducing data latency from 30+ minutes to 15 seconds, now widely adopted across the firm and praised for exceeding industry benchmarks.
- Implemented firmwide Tableau reporting environment with 15+ integrated data sources and 50+ reports, eliminating manual processes and enabling consistent, accessible business insights.
- Designed and deployed full DevOps toolchain (JIRA, BitBucket, TeamCity, Grafana), enabling 4x team growth and supporting 20+ enterprise applications.
- Led 20+ disaster recovery tests with zero downtime, achieving 30-minute RPO and 4-hour RTO to meet stringent investor and operational requirements.
- Managed vendor relationships and MSPs, opened 5 new offices, and scaled technology team from 5 to 25+ developers, supporting growing codebase and global operations.

Black River Asset Management (Cargill Subsidiary) | Minneapolis, MN

Director   **2005 – 2016**

Led enterprise application development, data architecture, and internal system modernization for a global multi-strategy hedge fund. Delivered regulatory, operational, and investor-facing solutions used across Cargill's extended enterprise.

Key Skills: Web Portal Development, Secure System Design, Team Leadership & Mentoring, Data Architecture & ETL

- Built and deployed SEC Form PF compliance system in just 8 weeks, integrating multiple internal and vendor data sources to automate filings, avoid seven-figure penalties, and support ongoing regulatory reporting.
- Developed a secure, Oracle-based HR system tailored to hedge fund operations; enabled salary-level row security and licensed to other Cargill units, generating $30K in annual savings and long-term cost neutrality.
- Expanded Oracle data warehouse from under 100 to 2,000+ objects, enabling support for 25+ funds across diverse strategies and facilitating $10B+ in AUM growth through dynamic data modeling.
- Led virtualization of Windows servers and relocation of critical Oracle DBs from Minneapolis to Chicago, completing enterprise data center migration with zero unplanned downtime.
- Directed development of internal and external portals—from 2 to 50+ pages—empowering employees and hundreds of investors with access to live fund performance, risk data, and firmwide reporting still in use today.

Cargill | Minneapolis, MN

Senior IT Analyst / IT Analyst   **1998 – 2005**

Delivered enterprise-grade solutions across business units, driving efficiency, cost savings, and scalable infrastructure within one of the world's largest private companies.

Key Skills: Custom Software Development, Identity & Access Management, Quality Systems Implementation

- Built a global external authentication platform using LDAP and SiteMinder, consolidating dozens of bespoke systems into a single secure solution and enabling tens of thousands of trading partners with unified access.
- Developed the Value Share Model, a self-contained Excel-based profitability analysis tool that standardized financial modeling across product teams and doubled the speed of decision-making for Food System initiatives.
- Assumed ownership of OneView, a Java/Oracle-based global address book system, replacing external consultants and saving over $100K annually while enhancing functionality and long-term maintainability.

Education and Certifications

B.S., Management Information Systems – North Dakota State University

- Minor: Computer Science

Oracle Certified Java Programmer (formerly Sun Certified)