Nikhil Ramakrishnan

Senior Software Engineer, AI Foundations & Developer Experience

Grew AI coding tool adoption at Uber from 0 to 4,600 users across a 7,000+ engineer org — 60% monthly active. Leader in agentic infrastructure and change management. Eight years building developer experience systems at scale: CI, remote environments, onboarding, IDE tooling.

Experience

Uber | *Senior Software Engineer, AI Foundations & Developer Experience*
Sep 2017 – Present | San Francisco, CA

AI & Agentic Transformation (2024 – Present)

- Introduced Claude Code to Uber engineering when Cursor was brought in. Bet on its fit for a monorepo-heavy org — configurability, deployability, token efficiency. Claude Code became the dominant tool
- Grew agentic tooling adoption from 0 to 4,600 users. 60% of engineering cohort is monthly active
- 50% productivity lift measured across power users
- Drove higher adoption at lower per-engineer cost by selecting token-efficient tooling over markup alternatives
- Founded Minions: CI-integrated agent platform for background tasks — migrations, refactors, test generation run asynchronously while engineers focus on design. Slack bot interface for dispatching work. Viral internal adoption
- Founded agentic containers: Devpods evolved for foreground agent work — engineers and agents operating in the same environment in real-time
- Designed agent inbox: unified lifecycle for agent-generated code from both background and foreground workflows. Human review before merge
- Claude Code adoption created the surface area for plugins, marketplaces, MCPs, and agentic containers across Uber
- Ran AI training courses on own initiative. Brought Anthropic in for engineering demos via vendor relationships
- Launched Codex with first-party support. Made GPT 5.3 Codex available. Portfolio strategy, not single-vendor
- Coached e2e UI testing team through migration of testing workflows to agentic tooling

Developer Experience & Platform (2017 – 2024)

- Maintainer of Android CI (Jenkins, Buildkite): containers, tests, static analysis, lint, app release. Reduced differential validation from 3 hours to 30 minutes
- Led Devpods: pre-configured container-based remote development environments. Adoption > 60% within 6 months of launch
- Built onboarding framework for MacOS and Linux. Hermetic, reproducible dev environment scaffolding. Reduced onboarding from ~1hr to single command, p95 of 10 minutes
- Designed centrally managed autorollout of Uber's IntelliJ plugins. Adoption to 95%
- Designed code coverage reporting and enforcement on differential changes
- Team oncall representative. Android code turnaround SLOs of 45 minutes, availability 98%
- Tech lead, managed 2 interns

Uber | *Software Engineering Intern*
Jan–Apr 2016, Sep–Dec 2016 | San Francisco, CA

- Designed and implemented end-to-end late dispatch experience for driver pickups. Currently used in airports
- Architected redesigned driver earnings screen

Education

University of Waterloo | Bachelor of Applied Sciences, Electrical Engineering | 2017