

## Clayton Harbour

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### SUMMARY

Senior Performance Engineer / Principal Backend (Scale & Reliability) with 25+ years of experience building and tuning large-scale backend and game platforms. Proven success scaling systems to 1M+ CCU, cutting profiling time from days to minutes, and reducing regression overhead by 80% through automation. Deep expertise in AWS, Kubernetes, k6/JMeter, observability, and backend engineering across games and SaaS. Known for identifying cost/performance bottlenecks, building repeatable load-testing frameworks, and mentoring teams in performance-first engineering.

### CORE SKILLS

- Performance & Load Testing – k6, JMeter, Gatling, synthetic vs real-world load, CI/CD-driven testing
- Engineering – Java, Groovy, JavaScript, TypeScript, Golang, Python, C#
- Cloud & Infrastructure – AWS (RDS, ElastiCache, DocumentDB, EKS), Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, Jenkins
- Observability & Tuning – Datadog, CloudWatch, Prometheus, Grafana, custom profiling tools
- Databases – PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MySQL, Oracle, MS SQL
- Leadership – Technical mentoring, cross-functional collaboration, Agile delivery, performance culture advocacy

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Technical Lead – Performance Engineering

AccelByte · Aug 2023 – Nov 2025 · Vancouver, BC (Remote/Hybrid)

- Architected a k6 + Grafana + Jenkins performance framework, enabling scalable and repeatable load tests across multiple backend services.
- Led performance and scale initiatives to support 1M+ concurrent users on live game backends.
- Built profiling and simulation tools in Java, Golang, and Python, reducing profiling cycles from days to minutes and enabling faster iteration.
- Standardized performance environments via containerized deployments and infrastructure-as-code, improving consistency across teams.
- Mentored engineers in load testing, observability, and automation best practices.
- Used AI-assisted tooling to develop reporting and analysis flows that identified AWS cost-saving opportunities and regression risks.
- Automated load-testing workflows, cutting profile creation from weeks to minutes and test execution from months to days, allowing higher test frequency and better bottleneck detection.

## **Senior Software Engineer - Performance**

Calabrio · Oct 2020 – Jun 2023

- Designed and maintained JMeter-based load test suites, integrated into CI/CD to catch regressions early.
- Tuned backend AWS services, improving reliability by ~20% under sustained load and reducing incident volume.
- Built Grafana/Datadog dashboards to surface performance bottlenecks and capacity trends for engineering and SRE teams.
- Partnered with QA and DevOps to combine synthetic load data with production metrics, aligning test scenarios with real user behaviour.

## **Senior Software Engineer**

Salesforce · Aug 2016 – May 2020

- Full-stack developer on analytics/platform features using Java and JavaScript.
- Designed and implemented customer-facing features based on business requirements while maintaining performance and reliability.
- Ensured thorough test coverage with unit and functional tests; participated in 2-week sprints with quarterly releases.
- Traced and resolved complex platform bugs in distributed systems, improving stability for high-traffic tenants.

## **Senior Software Engineer**

Electronic Arts (EA) · Oct 2004 – Aug 2016

- Lead server engineer and architect for a flagship AAA fitness title; designed and built backend microservices reused across multiple EA Sports titles.
- Designed server monitoring and KPI tracking tools for live games, enabling real-time tuning of performance and player experience.
- Supported 20+ successful console game launches across multiple platforms.
- Built automated test pipelines and a reusable performance-testing system used across several AAA titles, reducing pre-release defects by 80%.
- Collaborated with DevOps to design an automated deployment framework for backend services.

## **EARLIER EXPERIENCE**

### **Contract Software Engineer - Peer Giving**

Vancouver, BC · Feb 2006 – May 2009

- Developed and optimized nonprofit digital-giving platforms.
- Delivered system architecture and automation to speed deployment cycles.
- Migrated expensive MS SQL search queries to Lucene.NET, reducing search time from minutes to milliseconds.

## **Software Engineer – Sierra Systems**

Apr 2000 – Oct 2004

- Contributed to large-scale projects in telecom, healthcare, forestry, and gaming.
- Built custom billing and incentive systems for enterprise clients.
- Re-engineered MS Access/Oracle billing systems for TELUS, achieving 100× performance improvements.

## **EDUCATION**

Programmer Analyst Diploma – CDI College, Calgary, AB (2000)

B.Sc. Psychology (Minor: Physics) – University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB (1998)

## **SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS & TOOLS**

- Game Titles – 30+ shipped titles across sports, action, and multiplayer genres.
- Performance Tooling – Designed reusable load-testing frameworks using k6, JMeter, Gatling.
- Cloud Optimization – Built cost-aware AWS architectures leveraging RDS, DocumentDB, and ElastiCache.
- AI-Driven Development – Hands-on with Claude, ChatGPT, Cursor, MCP for code generation, test tooling, and reporting.