

Vibhaas Vinay Kotwal

Sr. Data & AI Platform Leader | Enterprise Data Engineering | AI Productization | Delivery & Transformation

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20+Yrs. Exp. | Enterprise Data & AI Platforms | Engineering Leadership | Cloud Transformation | AI Productization

Enterprise Data & AI Platform leader with 20+ years of experience building cloud-native data platforms, modernizing enterprise data ecosystems, and scaling high-performing engineering organizations. Led \$5M+ portfolios and multicultural teams of 40+ engineers, delivering AI-enabled data products through engineering excellence, platform governance, and operational rigor across quality, reliability, scalability, and cost. Known for translating business strategy into production-grade platforms through strong technical governance, repeatable operating models, and outcome-driven execution.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – CURRENT ROLE

Sr. Data & AI Platform Leader, Ford Motor Company - Hyderabad - 2021 - Present

Lead strategy & delivery of a cloud-native Enterprise Customer Analytics Platform on GCP powering AI-ready data products, enterprise dashboards, and predictive analytics across Subscriptions & Consumer Experience. Own a multi-million-dollar portfolio aligned to C-suite OKRs, driving engineering excellence through platform governance & technical reviews.

Tech Stack: GCP (BigQuery, GCS, Vertex AI), Power BI, API, CI/CD (Tekton, Terraform), Airflow/Astronomer

- Owned portfolio strategy & OKR-driven roadmap for enterprise Data & AI products, maximizing ROI & business outcomes.
 - Partnered with business, product, and architecture leaders to align platform investments with enterprise priorities.
 - Managed a \$5M+ technology portfolio across global vendors with strong financial governance and cost discipline.
 - Led & mentored multi-cultural **team of 40+** Data Engineers/Data Scientists across the globe, built a high-ownership delivery culture and engineering excellence.
 - Delivered a 50+ TB GCP Enterprise Data Platform serving 1M+ connected vehicles and 1,000+ users through BigQuery, APIs, dashboards, and AI models.
 - Established an Engineering Operating Model (System of Delivery), improving delivery predictability with ~40% faster releases and ~50% fewer job failures.
 - Strengthened platform reliability through architecture reviews, code quality gates, and data quality monitoring.
 - Enabled AI productization on GCP through Predictive Maintenance, Customer Churn, and GenAI solutions that improved engineering productivity.
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LEADERSHIP IMPACT

AI Strategy & Enablement – Established & lead the AI Enablement initiative to identify enterprise AI opportunities, drive ideation and PoCs, and accelerate production adoption through business-led AI solutions.

Engineering Excellence – Improved delivery speed by ~40% by institutionalising Systems, Standards, and AI-enabled engineering practices, creating predictable and scalable delivery.

Talent & AI Capability – Accelerated AI adoption by upskilling engineering teams through structured learning, hands-on AI projects, and leading by example through ISB Leadership with AI and AI agent development.

TECHNICAL & LEADERSHIP EXPERTISE:

- **Platform Engineering:** GCP (BigQuery, GCS, Vertex AI), Cloud Data Platforms, APIs, Airflow/Astronomer
- **Data Engineering:** ETL/ELT, Data Modeling, Data Pipelines, Data Governance & Quality
- **AI Engineering:** AI/ML, GenAI, AI Productization, MLOps
- **Engineering Excellence:** DevSecOps, CI/CD (Tekton, Terraform), Architecture Reviews, Code Quality
- **Analytics & Programming:** Python, SQL, Power BI, Looker, Tableau, Alteryx

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – PREVIOUS ROLES

Product Manager – Machine Learning - Ford Motor Company - Hyderabad - 2020 - 2021

Led the design, deployment, and scaling of enterprise ML solutions for high-impact business problems; accelerated platform modernization by migrating legacy Hadoop workflows to GCP.

Tech Stack: GCP (BigQuery, Vertex AI, GCS), Python, SQL, Hadoop, Jupyter, Looker

- **Defined ML strategy & roadmap;** partnered with business & analytics teams to align AI initiatives with enterprise goals.
- **Led platform modernization** from on-prem Hadoop to GCP to enable scalable model training and faster deployment cycles.
- Delivered end-to-end ML solutions from problem framing through production deployment, accelerating AI productization across enterprise use cases.
- Hands-on developed production-ready ML models, partnering with Data Engineering teams to scale AI solutions across enterprise platforms.
- **Led and mentored** Data Scientists and Engineers, delivering complex AI and data science initiatives successfully.

Product Manager – Data Engineering - Ford Motor Company - Chennai, India - 2018 - 2020

Role snapshot: Led the strategy, development, and delivery of enterprise data products, including revenue management dashboards and predictive models, generating 200+ actionable insights across multiple business domains.

Tech Stack: Hadoop, SQL Server, Python, SQL, Alteryx, Tableau, Rally

- Defined and executed data product strategy with senior leaders, aligning analytics initiatives with business outcomes.
- Owned the data product roadmap, prioritizing high-impact initiatives and presenting strategic insights to senior leadership.
- Built and led a high-performing team of 20+ Data Engineers through structured hiring, mentoring, and continuous capability development.
- Partnered with cross-functional teams to integrate data products across enterprise applications and business functions.
- Led Agile delivery practices to improve execution, team performance, and stakeholder engagement.

Lead Business Analyst - Ford Motor Company - Gurgaon, India/Michigan, USA - 2012 - 2018

Role snapshot: Led the digital transformation of a large-scale legacy 5 TBs Data Warehouse, migration into a modern Big Data ecosystem to enhance data accessibility, scalability, and performance across global operations.

Tech Stack: Hadoop, Teradata, SQL, Alteryx, Tableau, Rally

Business System Analyst - Sun Life Financials- Insurance - Gurgaon, India - 2011 – 2012

Role snapshot: Collaborated with business and IT teams to solution pricing solution enhancements for insurance products, aimed at improving advisor performance and customer outcomes.

Business Analyst - HCL Tech (IKEA) - Retail NOIDA, India / Helsingborg, Sweden - 2006 – 2011

Role snapshot: Spearheaded comprehensive business analysis creating Requirements and Technical Specs for the supply chain and improving order processing system for IKEA, spanning operations across 8 European countries.

Tech Stack: Oracle, SQL, VB

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION

- **Capstone Project – ISB Hyderabad:** Designed an enterprise implementation strategy for AI-based insurance claims automation (Computer Vision + GenAI) with governance, compliance, and risk controls.
- **Capstone Project – IIM Kozhikode:** Applied machine learning and statistical techniques to develop descriptive and predictive consumer behavior models as part of the Executive Data Science program.
- **Guest Speaker** at analytics conferences and Ford leadership forums on AI Productization, Data Platforms, and Digital Transformation.
- **Hackathon Finalist** at IIT Madras and NASSCOM for solutions in retail personalization and agri-tech using ML.

PERSONAL INTERESTS & CREATIVE PURSUITS

- **Storytelling:** Published poet, songwriter, and screenplay writer
- **Calligraphy:** Passionate about artistic lettering and designs.
- **Mindfulness:** Vipassana meditation practitioner and lifelong learner.

LANGUAGES

- Proficient in English, Hindi, Marathi & Urdu

LEADERSHIP STYLE

- Build scalable systems before scaling teams.
- Drive engineering excellence through governance, ownership, and continuous improvement.
- Translate business strategy into measurable technology outcomes through collaborative leadership.

EDUCATION

- **Indian School of Business, Hyderabad** – Leadership with AI, Certificate Program – 2025-26
- **Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode** – Advance Data Science for Managers, Executive Management Development Program – 2020-21
- **IGNOU, New Delhi** – Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics – 2018-19
- **University Institute of Technology, GEC RGPV, Bhopal** – B. Tech. – 2002-06

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Google Cloud Platform – Cloud Digital Leader - 2025
- Certified Business Analyst Professional (CBAP) – *International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA)*
- Retail Competency Certification – *NRFF (National Retail Federation Foundation)*

TRAININGS & SPECIALIZED COURSES

- Google Cloud Platform – Leadership Specialization & Google Cloud Digital Leader Certification - *Coursera*
 - Google Cloud Platform – Data Engineering & Machine Learning Specialization - *Coursera*
 - Python Career Track – Data Scientist with Python & Machine Learning Scientist with Python - *Data Camp*
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