

Ron Meck

Enterprise Architect | AI Strategy, Governance & Implementation

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SUMMARY

Enterprise architect who bridges business strategy and AI implementation, trusted by executives from Fortune 100 banks to state agencies to startup leadership. Helps organizations capture AI's value without betting the business on it, using safe-to-fail pilots, human-in-the-loop guardrails, and reversible deployment patterns that contain risk while proving measurable outcomes. 20+ years across regulated and enterprise-scale platforms.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1800Unlocks, Richmond, VA

Mar 2026 - Present

Principal Consultant, Enterprise & AI Architecture

A national network of independent locksmith firms.

- Engaged directly by the CEO to assess the current-state technology environment and drive the re-architecture of the central platform powering the firm's operations, network sites, and member services.
- Defined the target-state architecture and implementation roadmap: a multi-tenant AWS serverless platform with immutable, versioned site templates and pre-rendered static delivery, cutting hosting cost and operational risk across the member network.
- Architected safe Claude AI integration into platform workflows, establishing governance patterns including staged and reversible rollouts, tenant data isolation, scoped tool permissions, and prompt-injection mitigations.
- Designed AI-assisted marketing and local SEO capabilities for member firms, using structured data generation and content pipelines with brand and accuracy controls to improve search rankings and lead generation.
- Architected automated job-lead classification and routing, matching inbound service requests to member firms based on geography, capability, and availability.
- Translated business objectives into prioritized AI use cases and delivery plans in direct partnership with executive leadership.

Virginia Department of Transportation, Richmond, VA

Jan 2024 - Feb 2026

Senior Enterprise Solutions Architect (Contract)

- Managed statewide enterprise architecture strategy for mission-critical transportation platforms, aligning IT investments with agency-wide business objectives and operational priorities.
- Drove enterprise AI adoption strategy, assessing agency data and technology readiness, evaluating Azure AI platforms, and partnering with product line leaders to identify and prioritize high-value AI use cases.
- Established responsible-AI governance leveraging usage guardrails, evaluation criteria, and architecture standards, aligning AI adoption with security, compliance, and regulatory requirements.
- Established architecture governance, standards, and performance metrics that strengthened compliance, accountability, and cross-division alignment.
- Directed product line roadmaps and budget forecasting to ensure modernization initiatives aligned with fiscal constraints and long-term strategic goals.
- Authored enterprise architecture research that influenced statewide digital strategy and supported the approval and launch of three innovation initiatives.
- Championed secure Azure adoption using Functions, Blob Storage, Queues, cloud governance frameworks, and regulatory controls.

Capital One, Richmond, VA

Oct 2016 - Jul 2023

Senior Manager, Software Engineering Architect (Jan 2021 - Jul 2023)

- Architected and drove mission-critical enterprise payment systems and cloud migration strategies serving nearly 60M monthly users and processing approximately \$2T annually.
- Directed architecture direction across engineering, product, and security teams, owning end-to-end platform architecture and delivery outcomes.
- Drove a \$30M annual revenue increase through strategic re-architecture of payment platforms, improving throughput, scalability, and operational efficiency.
- Reduced feature delivery timelines by 75% by transitioning legacy systems to cloud-native, API-driven microservice architectures.
- Architected real-time, event-driven data pipelines streaming production payment transactions into the firm's central machine-learning decisioning platform, enabling ML-driven decisioning at ~\$2T annual scale.
- Acted as a player-coach, setting technical direction, leading architecture and design reviews, mentoring engineers, and remaining hands-on in backend service and API design.
- Oversaw frontend modernization using React.js and TypeScript, reviewing component architecture, state management patterns, API contracts, and performance considerations.
- Held accountability for architectural decisions impacting platform risk, regulatory compliance, reliability, scalability, and long-term sustainability.

Bank of America, Richmond, VA

Oct 2008 - Aug 2016

Enterprise Solutions Architect

- Managed enterprise architecture initiatives supporting large-scale, high-availability financial systems across multiple business units.
- Guided teams through platform modernization, data center migration, API-driven integration, and service-oriented architecture initiatives.
- Served as a trusted architecture advisor contributing to enterprise-wide technology decisions and long-term transformation opportunities.
- Supervised and mentored architects and engineers, driving alignment on architecture standards, reusable patterns, and best practices.
- Evaluated emerging technologies and led informed adoption of platforms that improved performance, security, scalability, and maintainability.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Manager, Software Engineering , Capital One, Richmond, VA	Jan 2019 - Jan 2021
Senior Software Engineer , Capital One, Richmond, VA	Aug 2018 - Jan 2019
Senior Cloud Platform Engineer , Capital One, Richmond, VA	Oct 2016 - Jul 2018
Enterprise Architecture Consultant , Bank of America, Richmond, VA	Oct 2008 - Jul 2010
IT Program Manager , US Navy, Yorktown, VA	Aug 2007 - Oct 2008
Senior Enterprise Architect , US Army, Fort Lee, VA	Jun 2002 - Aug 2007

SKILLS

Enterprise Architecture: Architecture Governance, Business Capability Modeling, IT Strategy Alignment, Platform Modernization, Domain-driven Design

Applied AI & Governance: Local LLM Tooling, AI Solution Architecture (RAG, Copilots, Automation), AI-Assisted Development, AI Readiness Assessment, Prompt Engineering & Agentic Workflows, LLM Platforms (Claude/MS Copilot/ChatGPT), Developer Productivity Evaluation

Cloud & Platforms: Azure, AWS, Cloud-Native Architecture, Microservices, API-Driven Platforms

Engineering Leadership: Team Leadership, Player-Coach Leadership, Mentoring, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Executive Advisory

Delivery & Operations: DevOps, CI/CD (Jenkins, GitHub Actions), Observability, Reliability Engineering, Agile/Scrum Methodology, Performance Optimization

Technical: Python, React.js, TypeScript, Node.js, Java/Spring Boot, Postgres, Git, Event-Driven Architecture

EDUCATION

Strayer University, BS, Computer Information Systems

Strayer University, AA, Inter-networking Systems

PATENTS

- Cloud Systems State Management
- Automated Software Roll-Forward / Rollback
- Least-Privilege Access Automation
- Terraform Infrastructure Modernization