

JEANNE D'ARC UWATOWENIMANA, M.Sc.  
Engineering Leader  
juwatow@gmail.com  
+1 (647) 348-3724

## SUMMARY

---

A lifelong learner, passionate about software product development and how a team/organization building softwares can achieve "Great Results & Great Human Satisfaction". I strive to empower people around me to reach their highest potential by guiding product/platform teams to become values-driven, self-organizing and high-performant as well as partnering with the EPD triad and other stakeholders to create an environment where we continuously improve in order to achieve the desired business outcomes.

## CAREER

---

### Nov 2022: Career Break

---

- Building an app to help parents/guardians in Toronto manage efficiently and effectively PA Days (Browser different activities, Make plans that optimize for exploration of diverse activities during a school year, ...)
- Attended [AWS re:Invent 2022](#)
- Attended "[Measuring Development Team Performance](#)" training and created "[Software Engineering Productivity](#)" Trello board to capture my interest on this topic
- Updated the tech stack of my online portfolio site [jeannedarc.io](#) (!This is my playground so the tech stack changes frequently. Currently: Next.js, TailwindCSS, GitHub, Netlify)

### May 2021 - Oct 2022: Engineering Manager, Xello

---

Xello is transforming the way Students in USA, Canada and UK become Future Ready by providing:

1. Tools students use for self-discovery, exploration of post-secondary schools/colleges and career options and, for creation of impactful plans.
2. Tools educators/counselors and guardians/parents use to support students in their K-12 journey

### Some highlights of my contribution to this mission:

- Led 2 product teams and 1 platform team
- Helped scaling the engineering department which doubled in size
- Mentored, Coached and Sponsored 17 engineers of all experience levels
- Projects/Initiatives:
  - Led the initiative to build [Taco - Xello's first Design System](#)
  - Led Engineering Open Space - an initiative to foster greater connectedness in a remote-first work setting
  - Supported the modularization of the monolith architecture: Micro Front-End and Micro-API per feature
  - Supported various Migration Projects: upgrade to .net6, upgrade to angular 8
  - Participated in the company initiative to become SOC 2 Compliance certified
- Advocated for great developer experience and continuously finding new ways for the engineering team to effectively accomplish the mission by introducing various process improvements & strategies for hiring, onboarding, delivering a high quality product, individual growth and retaining people who are aligned with the company's values & mission
  - Created a structured hiring process and trained our engineering team on how to use it
  - Advocated for hiring entry-level engineers and set in place a strong mentorship strategy to quickly level them up
  - Advocated for a [strong product culture](#) in a way that it is defined by people like Marty Cagan (PM: viable & valuable, Design: Usable, Engineering: Feasible) and better delivery (User Story Mapping, Planning)
  - Advocated for a strong feedback culture: Introduced the [Radical Candor framework](#)
  - Advocated for a data-driven decision-making culture: Promoted alignment through [Team Charters](#), Introduced [SPACE: A Framework to measure productivity](#) and DORA Metrics
  - Advocated for a writing culture: Introduced some practices like ADRs, RFCs, Design Docs, Technical Documentation, ...
  - Advocated for a sustainable remote-first environment: Introduced some practices to make our meetings more effective and efficient, advocated for Async communication, ...
- Technical contribution: Code Reviews, Write/Review Design Doc, Fix Bugs, Write Documentation, Automate tasks

## Jan 2021 - May 2021: Scrum Master - Cloud Platform, CaseWare International

---

The Cloud Platform team consisted of four small and self-organizing squads empowered to push the boundaries by trying various agile practices and using the most cutting-edge technologies, and obsessed by collaboratively providing a great cloud platform that enables internal and external developers to build a wide range of applications to automate tasks for accounting firms. My contribution was mainly around helping the team in their journey of continuously reflecting and experimenting with ways of getting even better than what they were before.

### Some of my responsibilities included:

- Guide the squads on how to fully embrace empiricism by helping them making every scrum ritual (sprint planning, daily planning, sprint review and retrospective) an opportunity to inspect and most importantly to adapt.
- Remove impediments or guide the team to remove impediments by helping in escalating to the right personnel to assist and follow up until the impediment is removed.
- Coach, mentor the team on agile & software engineering practices like user story mapping, estimation, prioritization, swarming via pair/mob programming, different types of feedback loops (code review, automation in CI/CD pipeline, ...)
- Design, capture, help the team have a good visibility of their work and leverage different metrics as powerful tools for delivering products (e.g. flow efficiency, work item age, sprint burndown charts, WIP, issue cycle time, epic cycle time, mean time to resolve, customer satisfaction, OKRs, ...)
- Advise on ways to optimize a remote-first culture (how to achieve the right balance for synchronous and asynchronous communication?, how to stay connected while avoiding zoom fatigue?, use of tools like Slack HeyTaco for fun peer recognition, ...)

## Dec 2019 - Jan 2021: Scrum Master - Cloud Engagements, CaseWare International

---

Working with the Smart Engagement group (5 teams) to continuously uncover better ways of creating technology solutions to innovate the accounting, auditing and tax professions.

### Some of my responsibilities included:

- Assisting the group with our release cycle of 10 weeks: from the readiness (backlog refinements, prioritization of features & technical improvements, design walkthroughs, technical discussions and define a clear goal in Release Planning session - SAFe PI Planning), through the development & regression phase (help identify and escalate any impediment to achieve our goals, assist in incorporating the feedback loop) until the product increment is released.
- Ensuring the three pillars of empiricism are constantly lived by teams: assist with tools and artifacts to maintain transparency (different jira boards - scrum & kanban -, dashboards, Structure plugin for Jira, Confluence, Slack, Miro), facilitate sessions to inspect and adapt (daily scrum, review & demo, retrospective).
- Putting in place tools that aggregate different insights to help the teams/group making decisions based on data and become more productive (cycle time, flow efficiency, WIP, ...).
- Promoting continuous learning and continuous improvements by encouraging conversations at different levels of the company, by facilitating a discussion forum focusing on our journey of achieving agility, by researching and suggesting learning platforms or resources based on the specific challenges faced by the group, skills people want to improve or goals they want to achieve (introduced practices like user stories mapping, mob pair/mob programming).
- Facilitating agile-related onboarding sessions and coach new team members (permanent and co-ops: on average, 15 co-ops join us every year) and making sure the dynamic in the teams doesn't become an impediment to achieve their goals.

## Apr 2017 - Dec 2019: Senior Software Engineer & Scrum Master, Xello

---

Part of a cross-functional team that ensured that Xello leads the way in supporting college-bound students (and the educators dedicated to helping them) by producing exceptional college planning and tracking tools that provide the most reliable, effortless, reassuring, and engaging experience on the market. In order to instill confidence in students and educators navigating the college application process so every student feels empowered to achieve their successful future.

- Ensuring the team develop new features while maintaining a high quality of the existing code
- Leading projects
- Hiring and mentoring engineers a bit earlier in their careers (mid-level and junior) and creating opportunities for them to level up

## Oct 2010 - Mar 2017: Software Engineer, Xello

---

Part of the first dev team of 4 engineers. The team scaled up to 2 big team of 8 engineers each owning a persona-focused codebase. Some highlights of this ride:

- Wear multiple hats: Developer, Tech lead, Manager, Scrum Master
- Participated in multiple migration projects: ASP.NET to ASP.NET Core REST API | Angular | Sql Server
- Led/participated in multiple projects to scale the system: load balancer, Redis, Solr, moved to Azure, CDN, Blob storage

## 2009 - 2010: Software Engineer | Self-Employed

---

Web development for multiple clients mainly with Wordpress

## 2007 - 2009: Programmer Analyst, CAIJ

---

Mobile & Web Application Development - LegalTech. Some Highlights:

- Presenter at the COSUGI Conference <https://www.cosugi.org/about>
- Development of one of the first mobile website on top of a proprietary CMS for library
- Development of a mobile app using Xamarin and publish it on Apple Store

## EDUCATION

---

- Masters of Science, Computer Science, University of Montreal, 2008. Focus on data mining and data visualization.
- Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, University of Mons, Belgium, 2004. Graduated with Great Distinction.

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

---

- 2019: Data Science Foundations Specialist (IBM - Coursera)
- 2017: CSM (Certified Scrum Master)

## VOLUNTEERING

---

- 2017 - Present: Founder, [Neebyo](#)
- Feb 2022 - May 2022: Associate Advisor to the CEO, [iamtheCODE](#)
- Apr 2014 - Dec 2019: Mentor & Host of events, [Canada Learning Code](#)
- Oct 2012 - Dec 2019: Volunteer, [Toronto Women's Run Series](#)