Albert Casanovas

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Professional Summary

Product-oriented Engineering Manager with 10+ years of experience leading cross-functional teams to deliver scalable SaaS and data-driven platforms.

At Gartner Digital Markets, I lead the Reviews organization — the systems that collect, moderate, and distribute millions of user reviews across Capterra, GetApp, and Software Advice. My focus is creating an environment where engineers thrive: clear goals, autonomy, and a shared commitment to quality and velocity.

I'm passionate about engineering culture, developer experience, and the balance between strong architecture and pragmatic delivery. Colleagues describe me as a connector, someone who unites teams after change, keeps communication open, and helps people grow through coaching and feedback.

Away from work, I'm a father of three young boys (6, 4, and 5 months). They've taught me more about empathy, patience, and prioritization than any leadership book ever could — lessons I bring back to how I build and support teams every day.

Always learning, mentoring, and exploring new technologies with the belief that great engineering cultures are built on curiosity, trust, and continuous improvement.

Core Competencies

Leadership & Strategy: People Development, Performance Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Stakeholder Alignment, OKRs, Change Leadership

Engineering Management: Delivery Excellence, Developer Experience (DevEx), CI/CD Automation, Agile at Scale, Observability, Monitoring, High Availability, multi-region Deployments, Team Maturity, Hiring & Onboarding

Technical Expertise: React, Node.js, Next.js, GraphQL, TypeScript, Python, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Redis/Valkey, Snowflake, Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kafka, SQS/SNS, S3, Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, AWS, Datadog, Microservices, Event-Driven Architecture, System Architecture

Experience

GARTNER   2020–Present

Engineering Manager | Oct 2023 – Present
Promoted through three levels in five years within Gartner Digital Markets, currently leading the Reviews organization, the platform powering review collection, moderation, and insights across Capterra, GetApp, and Software Advice.

- Lead a multi-team organization of 10+ engineers (Leads & Seniors) delivering critical systems supporting millions of monthly users.
- Drive engineering strategy, execution, and delivery excellence across product areas while aligning with Product and Design on long-term vision.
- Foster a high-performance culture of autonomy, accountability, and craftsmanship, with several team members promoted to Senior and Lead roles.
- Partner with senior leadership to define org-level goals, architecture direction, and technical roadmaps for scalable growth.
- Unify previously siloed teams and functions, improving collaboration, engagement, and throughput across GDM.
- Champion Developer Experience initiatives (CI/CD, observability, testing standards), achieving ~35% faster release cadence.
- Consistently earned Exceeds Expectations performance ratings for leadership, delivery, and culture impact.

Engineering Lead | Oct 2021 – Sep 2023
Led technical direction, delivery, and cross-team collaboration across the Reviews domain, bridging engineering, product, and design to enable scalable growth and organizational alignment.

- Drove the Reviews 2.0 rearchitecture, introducing an event-driven microservices model (Next.js, Node.js, MongoDB, Kafka, Kubernetes).
- Expanded CI/CD capabilities across multiple teams using GitHub Actions, improving delivery reliability and observability.
- Built and scaled the Barcelona Reviews team from zero to a high-performing group, managing hiring, onboarding, and contractor transitions.
- Partnered with Product and Design leadership to define technical strategy and roadmap execution frameworks for multiple cross-functional teams.
- Aligned and integrated previously separated Review Collection, Moderation, and Publishing teams under a shared delivery model.
- Established engineering standards for quality, testing, and release processes, improving team velocity and confidence.
- Acted as a key liaison with global stakeholders, influencing org-level planning and architecture discussions.
- Delivered and maintained distributed systems leveraging Redis/Valkey caching, Kafka, SQS/SNS, and Elasticsearch to ensure high availability and low latency across multi-region environments.
- Developed core data pipelines using Python, Logstash, and Snowflake to enhance data visibility and operational analytics; implemented Datadog for observability.

Senior Software Engineer (Advanced) | Sep 2020 – Oct 2021
Joined the Central Review Form (CRF) team to lead technical ownership during a leadership transition, ensuring delivery stability while driving modernization of core systems.
- Assumed end-to-end ownership of the CRF platform and facilitated a smooth leadership transition while maintaining roadmap delivery.
- Designed and implemented a modernization initiative migrating from AWS-based architecture (Lambdas, DynamoDB, Elasticsearch, SQS/SNS, S3 Finch) to a React/Next.js + MongoDB stack
- Introduced event-driven design patterns and microservices to improve flexibility, scalability, and long-term maintainability.
- Partnered with Moderation and Publishing teams to align schemas, APIs, and delivery timelines, laying the foundation for unified product evolution.
- Delivered foundational work for the Reviews collection and distribution ecosystem serving Capterra, GetApp, and Software Advice.

XOGITO GROUP   Feb 2020 – Sep 2020
Engineering Lead (Client Projects)
Xogito Group is a distributed software consultancy where I led a remote, cross-functional team of 7+ engineers, designers, and QA specialists delivering scalable SaaS and mobile solutions for global clients.
- Directed multiple concurrent client projects, managing front-end, back-end, QA, design, and native mobile (Android/iOS) teams.
- Guided modernization of web and service architectures (React, Node.js, GraphQL, TypeScript) to improve scalability, reliability, and performance.
- Designed reusable API and UI patterns that standardized implementation across projects and improved delivery speed.
- Implemented and optimized GitLab CI/CD pipelines, automating testing, integration, and deployment workflows to increase efficiency and confidence.
- Collaborated with client-side Product and Design leadership to align priorities, delivery schedules, and roadmap execution.
- Mentored engineers across disciplines, fostering engineering leadership, collaboration, and continuous improvement in a fully remote environment.

EVOLVE ADAPTIVE LEARNING   Nov 2017 – Dec 2019
Founding Engineer & Technical Lead
Evolve Adaptive Learning is a Shanghai-based company creating game-based corporate learning and development solutions. I was responsible for leading engineering strategy and hands-on delivery from architecture to

production across multiple mobile and web projects for international enterprise clients.

- Collaborated closely with the CEO, Sales, Product, and Design teams to define product vision, technical roadmap, and delivery strategy.
- Led a cross-functional team including a Senior Engineer, Designer, PM, and stakeholders across Shanghai, Turkey and Barcelona.
- Designed and built the platform's core web architecture using React, Redux, Node.js, GraphQL, and Ruby on Rails.
- Delivered multiple iOS and Android React Native applications for global clients such as Adidas, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Cartier, Chanel, and major pharmaceutical companies.
- Established modern development workflows, code standards, and CI/CD practices to streamline release cycles.
- Acted as technical advisor to leadership, influencing product scalability, cost efficiency, and long-term maintainability.

Earlier roles: Freelance Full-Stack Developer, INTER SERVICES EURO AMERICA, Renommé Barcelona, Zitric Media — see full details on LinkedIn.

Certifications & Courses

Technologies & Specializations:
C++, React, Next.js, Node.js, GraphQL, TypeScript, Python, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Redis/Valkey, Snowflake, Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kafka, SQS/SNS, S3, Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, AWS, Datadog, Microservices, Event-Driven Architecture, System Architecture, Web Security.

Leadership & Management Development:
Completed over 40 formal trainings under the **Ascent Leadership Program** and related Gartner courses on decision-making, coaching, feedback, inclusion, and organizational design. Key topics include:

- Strategic vs. Tactical Decision Making, Prioritization, and Business Impact
- Coaching for Growth and Effective Feedback Models
- Managing with Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness
- Building Trust, Psychological Safety, and Inclusion
- Career Conversations and Team Development (IDPs)
- Collaboration, Diversity of Thought, and Productive Conflict

Security & Compliance Training:

- **Ethical Hacking: SQL Injection** — Troy Hunt (Pluralsight)
- **Ethical Hacking: Session Hijacking, DoS, Cryptography, and Cloud Security** — Troy Hunt, Dale Meredith, Jason Helmick (Pluralsight)
- **Hackedu: OWASP Top 10 – Web Security Risks** (Injection, Broken Auth, Sensitive Data Exposure, Security Misconfiguration, XSS)
- **Hackedu: OWASP LLM Top 10 – AI/LLM Risks** (Prompt Injection, Data Leakage, Model Poisoning, Supply Chain Vulnerabilities)

Current Learning Focus:
Expanding expertise in **AI-assisted software engineering**, integrating **Large Language Models (LLMs)**, **Model Context Protocol (MCP)**, and developer-productivity tooling into engineering workflows. Exploring how AI-driven code generation, observability, and architecture design accelerate delivery and improve DevEx. Continuing studies on **technical strategy**, **organizational scalability**, and **engineering leadership at scale**.

Learning Platforms & Selected Courses:

- **MongoDB for Developers** — MongoDB University
- **Building Data-Driven React Applications with Relay & GraphQL** — Pluralsight
- **High-Performance PHP** — Jonathan Klein (Pluralsight)
- **React & Flux for Angular Developers** — Tony Alicea (Pluralsight)
- **Play by Play: Docker for Web Developers** — John Papa, Dan Wahlin (Pluralsight)

- **Microservices Architecture** — Pluralsight
- **Agile Project Management & Scrum** — Coursera
- **DevOps Foundations** — Udemy

Education

Bachelor's Studies in Computer Engineering, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)
Originally enrolled at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB); continued studies at UOC.

Languages

Catalan (Native)   ·   Spanish (Native)   ·   English (Full Professional Proficiency)