

VANESSA LITTLE

Linked-In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/van-little-469a963/>

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Equal parts technical skill and business acumen. A change agent that knows how to balance disruption with vigilance. Experienced Global CTO with a proven track record in IT Strategy, Business Strategy, and Engineering. Recognized for establishing top-of-the-line processes and building high-performing teams. Proficient in Public Speaking, Project Management, and Vendor Management. Trusted advisor to executive leadership and customers, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. Strong leader, communicator, and results-oriented professional.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supervised multi level team of over 150 members.
- Delivered many new market solutions and strategies.
- Developed several frameworks to streamline business practices like Vendor/Partner management, Engineering and deployment, Review and Evaluation of new technologies etc.
- Created and launched a comprehensive enablement program including videos, collateral library, office hours.

SKILLS

- Business Strategy
- IT Strategy
- ITIL V3 Certification
- Software Development and Design
- Public Speaking
- Vendor Management
- Engineering Team Leadership
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Technology Team Leadership
- Governance
- Thought Leadership
- Technology Trends and Innovation

CTO | IDX - A Converge Company - Global

06/2020 - Current

- Currently leading Cloud strategy and offering creation as CTO – Cloud and Digital Infrastructure post acquisition
- Recently lead two new solutions to market from ideation to deployment:
- Cyber Security: Ransomware Recovery as a Service
- AI Analytics: Hosted LLM as a Service
- Spearheaded Lab as a Service offering resulting in **25% new logos** in first year of operations
- Lead strategist on corporate technology pivot from traditional value-added-reseller model to a systems integrator focused on Large Enterprise, Retail, Finance, Public Sector and Telecom verticals
- Developed a P&L model that streamlined innovation and go to market of new products and solutions
- Architected and lead initiative to introduce proper DevSecOps policy and procedure, expediting solutions from software development teams
- Executive strategist for Global Telecom and Retail verticals
- Executive sponsor and relationship lead with Google Canada, Netapp, Lenovo, Dell Canada, Amazon Web Services and other strategic vendor partners
- Discovery and development of emerging technology trends to assess their potential impact on business strategy and operations
- Identify potential strategic partners and build relationships to support business growth in the Large Enterprise, Retail, Finance, Public Sector, and Telecom verticals
- Developed long-term strategic plan for the company's cloud and digital infrastructure, aligning it with overall business objectives to ensure scalability and growth
- Provide thought leadership and strategic guidance to the executive team on global IT industry trends, best practices, and innovative technologies that can drive competitive advantage and business growth
- Collaborate with key stakeholders across the organization to understand business needs and develop technology solutions that drive innovation and growth in the rapidly changing market
- Defined and implemented a technology governance framework that ensures compliance with industry standards, regulations, and best practices, while also enabling flexibility and innovation in the rapidly evolving technology landscape
- Frequent keynote speaker and thought leader at industry events like the Linux Foundation Summits, Mobile World Congress, Etc.

Sr. Director Global Telecom Innovation | VMware - Palo Alto, CA

01/2016 - 06/2020

- Lead global team of expert-level Telecom Architects, Engineers, and Program Managers to design unique 5G network architectures for future technologies
- Oversaw budget and operations of three lab large environments for complex multi-vendor integrations globally
- Consulted for internal product teams to integrate concepts and technologies explored in demo builds, thus making products more attractive to customers

- Participated as a Keynote speaker at over 50 Telco Industry events, including Mobile World Congress, Layer 123 SDN Congress, Capacity Media 5G conference, Open Infrastructure Conference, ONS, and more
- Lead the Open Source strategy for Telecom at VMware, held the VMware seat on the Linux Foundation Networking Board
- Designed, built, and managed a Program to support the NFV Ecosystem of partners in three ways:
- Built and executed a technical enablement program – public lectures, webinars, collateral library
- Created the NFV Ecosystem Innovation Lab program with a Centre of Excellence and labs to integrate partner solutions for specific use cases
- Participated in industry standards and Open Source communities as a contributor and thought leader
- Lead investment strategies and roadmap development for selected partners
- Spoke at industry events on NFV relevant topics like Open Source integration, VMware NFV solutions, Operational Transformation, Integrated architectures, and topologies
- Member of VMware M&A board as Advisor for Telecom Vertical

Presales Architect Lead | VCE - North America

12/2014 - 12/2015

- Developed VCE NFV market and solution strategy based on TAM, opportunity and available technology
- Technical Product Development and Architecture Lead for VxRack for NFV systems, coordinating the technical teams and design, define support, go to market strategies, monetization, viability, and platform lifecycle within VCE as well as coordination with the broader Federation (VMware, EMC, RSA, Pivotal)
- Served as the Technical Leader and Relationship Manager for customer accounts, with a focus on the Service Provider and NFV spaces
- Resident Subject Matter Expert and Technical Advisor to vArchitects globally for all things Service Provider, NFV, and IP network topics
- Published papers and gave public lectures on many technical and industry-relevant topics, including Openstack, NFV architectures, best practices in network administration, and orchestration - Telco enablement program lead
- Lead the development and implementation of innovative solutions and strategies to address the specific needs and challenges of telco customers in the NFV market
- Lead the engagement and collaboration with Telco clients to understand their specific needs and requirements, and provide technical expertise and design solutions to meet those needs

Lead IT Infrastructure and Network Architect | Shoppers Drug Mart - Toronto, ON
02/2013 - 11/2015

- Contract position to lead the audit, redesign and deployment of all networks in Shoppers Drug Mart distribution warehouses.
- Selected appropriate vendors to maximize cost, fault tolerance and functionality.
- Planned implementation of network enhancements and upgrades.
- Provided firewall and VPN management design security and incident response.
- Developed network test and validation processes to maintain alignment with solution design.
- Worked closely with trades and vendors to provide direction on installations.

- Collaborated closely with stakeholders during the planning stages of projects to align on objectives.
- Implemented WAN and LAN designs in multi-datacenter configurations.
- Oversaw network performance, making changes to boost overall efficiency and power.

Head of IT Architecture Governance | Rogers Communications - Toronto, ON

08/2010 - 07/2012

- Developed new framework - policy, process and procedure for how Rogers would request, source, architect then deploy new IT infrastructure resulting in a **6 million** dollar savings the first quarter it was implemented.
- Developed an internal shared cloud-first strategy that **reduced infrastructure costs an average of 60%.**
- Responsible for reviewing all new proposed deployments and correcting them to fit the governance model.
- Mentored to infrastructure architecture teams on how to design for the governance framework.

Chief Infrastructure Architect | Quickplay Media - Toronto, ON

02/2006 - 09/2008

- Manager of the Infrastructure Engineering and Deployment teams.
- Achieved significant cost savings by negotiating favorable contracts with suppliers for hardware purchases.
- Worked with executive stakeholders and different subject matter experts to gather and define requirements, identify constraints, and lead projects accordingly.
- Mentored junior team members, providing guidance on best practices and fostering a culture of continuous learning within the department.
- Reduced downtime by proactively identifying potential risks and implementing preventive measures.
- Responsible for corporate IT Security Policy.
- Leader of IT Security Audits and Remediation exercises.
- Supported organizational growth with scalable infrastructure designs that accommodated expanding needs over time.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto - Toronto, ON
Computer Science and Astro-Physics

AFFILIATIONS

- ETSI - (Standards Body) 4 yrs
- Linux Foundation Networking - Board Member 2 yrs
- Ecotank Canada - Current member of Board of Advisors
- CMC Microsystems - Current member of Board of Directors
- Layer 123 Conferences - Board Member 2 years
- Canadian Telecom Summit - current board member

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Era Magazine Canada

Top 10 Inspiring CTO of the year award 2021

Girls Who Code

Mentor Award - 2021

Capacity Media

Top 20 SDN Market Leaders 2018 & 2019

TMForum

Best New Catalyst 2019

Mobile World Congress

Best Mobile Core Demo - 2016, 2017, 2018

ETSI Foundation

Open Source Mano Steering Committee Chair - 2016-2018

Linux Foundation Networking

Board Member 2016-2018

LANGUAGES

English

Native or Bilingual

Japanese

Limited Working

French

Professional Working