

Finbarr Brady

SOFTWARE ARCHITECT · TECHNICAL LEAD / DISTINGUISHED ENGINEER

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SUMMARY

Software architect and technical leader with 20+ years building and scaling complex, distributed systems — across cloud, mobile and large multi-tenant platforms. Currently the architecture lead for **Cisco Webex Wholesale**, where I set architecture standards, drive cross-cutting technical decisions and steer carrier-scale migrations of an always-on platform serving millions of users. I work at the intersection of architecture, scale and reliability: ensuring architectural coherence through governance practices and documented decision records, characterising system limits before they become production failures, and aligning engineering, product and external teams across geographies behind a single technical direction. I raise the engineering bar through reliability and security-by-default practices, mentor emerging technical talent, and turn ambiguous business needs into validated, engineering-ready designs. Pragmatic and evidence-led, with a deep foundation in quality, verification and end-to-end validation — well suited to regulated, safety-critical environments where uptime is patient peace of mind.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Architecture: Distributed systems · multi-tenant cloud/SaaS platforms · architecture governance & decision records · service topology & dependency modelling · API design

Technical Leadership: Raising the engineering bar · technical sign-off & quality gates · global matrixed alignment (US / India / EMEA) · mentoring emerging talent · influence without authority

Engineering: Java · Spring / Spring Boot · Python · event-driven systems (Kafka, AWS SQS) · full-stack & cloud development · mobile / native Apple platforms (Swift / Objective-C)

Domain: Connected-device ecosystems & real-time communications · large-scale platform migrations · high-volume data integrity

Scale & Reliability: Performance & capacity analysis · concurrency & rate-limit modelling · failure-mode characterisation · resilience, retry & rollback · platform lifecycle & health · observability

Cloud & DevOps: GCP · OpenStack · Docker · Kubernetes · Jenkins · GitHub Actions · CI/CD pipelines · security-by-default practices

Observability & AI: Metrics & dashboards (Grafana) · AI-assisted engineering (Claude / Copilot / Codex / Gemini) · test automation & E2E verification

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Technical Leader / Architect — Cisco Systems

2021 – Present

Webex Wholesale — multi-tenant cloud platform delivering calling, meetings & collaboration to carrier and SMB partners worldwide

- Ensure **architectural coherence through governance practices and documented decision records** — leading the platform's Definition of Ready process to take complex, cross-cutting features from ambiguous business need to agreed, engineering-ready design, with security, serviceability, observability, testing and API concerns resolved up front.
- Led the architecture and performance review for **scaling an always-on platform** through large-scale carrier migrations — a programme spanning **150,000+ customer organisations and 1.5M+ users** across multiple tier-1 carriers against hard end-of-life deadlines.
- Characterised the end-to-end performance envelope across **14+ cloud services and 160+ API combinations**, identified the binding throughput and concurrency constraints, and turned production-discovered failure modes into a validated, phased scale-up model with per-partner targets.
- Champion **platform lifecycle health, reliability and security-by-default** for unattended, 24x7 migration tooling — concurrency control, failure categorisation, partial-state detection, retry and rollback strategy, and purpose-built observability.
- Drive technical decisions across **product management, UX, architects, engineers and external technical leads** in a global matrixed organisation, landing architecture sign-off to a **zero-unresolved-unknowns** bar; mentor engineers and raise best-practice adoption. Also active across Webex for BroadWorks provisioning and the BroadWorks-to-Wholesale conversion path.

Senior Software Engineer — Cisco Systems

2011 – 2022

Webex Teams & Broadsoft-to-Cisco platform integration

- Full-stack engineering across on-premise, hybrid and cloud deployments — building microservices in **Java / Spring Boot** and Python with event-driven messaging (Kafka, SQS), on a DevOps stack of Docker, Kubernetes, OpenStack, Jenkins and GitHub Actions.
- Delivered core capabilities for Webex Teams and the migration of Broadsoft services onto the Cisco cloud, building the domain depth that underpins my current architecture work.

Co-Founder & CTO — Webreach Ltd

until 2016

Native iOS / macOS product company

- Co-founded a product company and owned all technical direction; designed, built and shipped multiple App Store products downloaded **420,000+ times**, including a #1-ranked title — full ownership from architecture through release, monetisation and live operations.

Earlier Career — Lumension Security · Nortel · Ericsson

- Test & automation engineering leadership across telecom (CORE/WCDMA OSS), contact-centre and endpoint-security products — designing reusable automation frameworks, end-to-end and performance validation (JMeter), and data-integrity verification from network node to presentation layer. Foundation in the quality and verification discipline central to safety-critical systems.

RECOGNITION

Collaboration Engineering Excellence Award

Cisco · 2024

Team-wide award recognising outstanding contribution through creativity, innovation and problem-solving.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. (Honours), Computing

Institute of Technology, Sligo (ATU) — 2:1 Honours