

Michael Ostrovsky

Director of Data Engineering & AI

✉ michael@strafer.dev 📍 Tel Aviv, IL 🌐 <https://www.strafer.dev>

🐙 **GitHub**

[Strafer14](#)

🌐 **LinkedIn**

[in/michael-ostrovsky](#)

Summary

I run Data Engineering and AI. At Tastewise I built the agent stack and the Databricks platform under it. Before that, a data team in Unit 8200 and an esports startup I co-founded.

Education

The Open University of Israel
Economics & Computer Science

B.A. in Economics & Computer Science
2019 - 2025

Experience

Tastewise July 2023 - August 2026

Director of Data Engineering & AI

Started on the core ETL platform, built out the company’s first proper data platform, and grew into owning the data products and the whole AI/agent layer.

- Built the product’s agent stack from scratch: a prompt-chain and router orchestrating the model calls, without LangGraph or Mastra.
- Took agent responses from a 90-second blank wait to real-time streaming, rebuilding the path so the UI showed partial results (and repaired half-formed JSON) as tokens arrived.
- Stood up the AI-platform layer: MCP servers exposing the company’s data platform to agents, an OAuth AI gateway, and a Slack knowledge sharing agent owning the team’s llm wiki. Langfuse tracing took LLM debugging from hours to minutes.
- Moved the data platform onto Databricks and Delta Lake over 292 commits, rewriting jobs that used to run for days into PySpark on Airflow, so they finish in hours instead.
- Built the ingestion behind 1M+ indexed places, unifying 10 mismatched collectors into one schema and orchestrating the jobs on Airflow with KubernetesPodOperators (EKS).
- Grew the team from 2 to 9 engineers across full-stack, data, AI and data science, built the interview process we still use, and took over the prior team’s ML pipelines with zero handover.

Zencity June 2019 - July 2023

Full-Stack Team Leader

Architected the civic-engagement (B2G) product’s survey-submission platform, and grew from developer to leading the full-stack team.

- Cut survey-collection cost to near zero by replacing a third-party SaaS with an in-house platform — a React client plus an event-driven Lambda/SQS ingestion pipeline — running across ~100 cities at thousands of submissions a day.
- Built device fingerprinting and throughput optimization into the submission flow, hardening it and making it faster to onboard new cities.
- Grew and led the full-stack team from 2 to 7 engineers after being promoted from developer.

Snipe January 2017 - May 2019

Co-Founder & VP R&D

Co-founded an esports startup and ran R&D, shipping ML-driven products for League of Legends players.

- Built Sightstone, which predicted favorable League of Legends matchups by pre-ingesting millions of games — Spark/Scala for processing, scikit-learn for the models, MongoDB for storage.
- Built Matchmaker, a mobile app that profiled players’ playstyle to recommend teammates and streamers, tackling game loneliness and content discovery.
- Grew to 100k+ downloads and 10k+ weekly active users across 4 products in two years, raised a pre-seed round, and moved the company to Silicon Valley.

Israeli Military Intelligence — Unit 8200 February 2013 - February 2016

Data Developer Team Leader

Led a data team building tools that surfaced new insight from previously-inaccessible data.

- Built tooling that made previously-inaccessible mission-critical data queryable, unlocking insights from data the organization already held.
- Led a team of 5 data developers and analysts across seniority levels.

Skills

☆ AI & LLM Engineering

Agentic workflows (prompt-chain + router), RAG & retrieval, MCP servers & gateways, Langfuse evals & observability, Model routing, Token streaming

☆ Data Engineering

Databricks, Delta Lake, PySpark / Spark, Airflow (Astronomer), Kinesis / Firehose, Pydantic, Elasticsearch, S3

☆ Cloud & Infra

AWS, Kubernetes (EKS), KubernetesPodOperators, Lambda, Datadog (APM/RUM), Terraform

☆ Languages & Backend

Python, TypeScript, Node.js, FastAPI, Flask, NestJS

☆ Frontend

React, React Native, Svelte, TypeScript, SCSS

☆ Leadership

Hiring & interview design, Org design, Mentoring, Technical strategy, Cross-functional delivery