

Nikhil Acharya Prakash

Solana & crypto infrastructure · 15 years in systems software

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SUMMARY

Engineer and technical leader building crypto infrastructure on Solana. Currently at the Solana Foundation working on token data, transaction relaying (Kora), RPC monitoring and trading infrastructure; previously a founding engineer at Helius, indexing NFTs and tokens and scaling RPC. Before crypto: WAN acceleration, switch operating systems, unikernels, and cloud and serverless platforms.

EXPERIENCE

Solana Foundation May 2026 – Present

- Modernized key products while cutting cost and vendor dependency: led the Tokens rebuild, set up Kora on devnet and mainnet, and moved Breeze onto standard infrastructure.
- Designed and built the foundation of the trading infrastructure, with multi-region redundancy, monitoring and failover from day one.
- Released a public RPC monitoring dashboard for RPC providers.
- Set up a common engineering operating model: design, release and incident templates, on-call and escalation, and a "How to Build" onboarding guide.

Helius, Bangalore · Founding Engineer / Principal Engineer Mar 2023 – May 2026

- Indexed Solana compressed NFTs and NFTs as open standards; added regular tokens, token extensions and a new RWA indexer.
- Built a global rate limiter and edge caching for RPC traffic worldwide.
- Led the user-management revamp for the Helius developer portal; improved gRPC-based Solana WebSockets.

DigitalOcean, Bangalore · Engineering Manager / Technical Lead Sep 2021 – Feb 2023

- Led the team integrating the Nimbella serverless platform into multiple regions as DigitalOcean Cloud Functions after the acquisition.
- Built control-plane services and APIs for Cloud Functions; delivered Scheduled Functions and function eventing.

Nimbella, Bangalore · Founding Engineer / Technical Lead Sep 2019 – Aug 2021

- Led integrations with Netlify and Postman; managed the team building Commander for Slack and Microsoft Teams.
- Integrated the OpenWhisk API Gateway into the Nimbella serverless stack.

Arista Networks, Bangalore · Member of Technical Staff Nov 2017 – Aug 2019

- Wireshark and tcpdump dissectors for Arista's proprietary protocol; VRF and HA for management interfaces on Arista switches.

IBM Research, New York · Researcher Sep 2018 – Dec 2018

- Research on "Unikernels as Processes", published at ACM SoCC 2018; ran Solo5 unikernels as Docker containers, leading to Nabla containers.

Aryaka Networks, Bangalore · Member of Technical Staff Jul 2011 – Sep 2017

- Led the IP Acceleration delivery team; improved resource use, bandwidth and connection throughput of Aryaka's cloud; built POP-level redundancy, control-plane rate limiting and DDoS mitigation for IKEv1.

PROJECTS

- **Pillar**: open-source agent and controller for running Solana validators: supervise, self-heal, provision, upgrade (Rust, gRPC). pillar.niks3089.com
- **Portfolio**: self-hosted multi-wallet Solana tracker with trade-based P&L, XIRR and an end-to-end encrypted vault (TypeScript). portfolio.niks3089.com
- **Brigade**: crypto-native social network for Solana (Rust, PostgreSQL, NATS JetStream). brigade.niks3089.com
- **TechShorts**: tech news in 60 words; serverless pipeline with dedupe and LLM summaries, nothing to operate. techshorts.niks3089.com
- **Open source**: IncludeOS (IPv6 stack, Node.js and DPDK ports), Solo5 (core dumps, 3x network bandwidth via shared memory).

SKILLS

Crypto	Solana, RPC and indexing, token data, transaction relaying, trading and validator infrastructure
Cloud	Cloud platforms, cloud-native services, serverless, distributed systems, networking
Languages	Rust, Go, TypeScript, Python, C/C++
Leadership	Engineering standards, on-call and incident process, hiring, mentoring, planning

EDUCATION

BITS Pilani, M.Tech

BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore · B.E. Computer Science