

# Thomas Olick

**Address:**

Mühsamstraße 67  
10249 Berlin, DE

**Email:** [tom.lick@gmail.com](mailto:tom.lick@gmail.com)

**Phone:** +49 1512 2214507  
+1 234 206 0006

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/tomolick](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tomolick)

**Nationality:** American (USA)

**DE Visa Status:** Niederlassungserlaubnis (Permanent Resident)

## TL;DR

---

Staff Engineer (L6) with broad experience in both large and small companies. Deep knowledge of AI / LLMs, Cloud Services, eCommerce, FinTech and Mobile technologies and products. Proven Technical Leader of successful engineering teams.

## Highlights:

- TL of “[Google Speak](#)”, an AI-driven web application to assist language-learners through conversation and speech analysis.
- TL of greenfield iOS/Android social mobile app (“Shoelace”) built within a fast-moving, deadline-driven, incubator-style startup environment.
- TL of a distributed engineering team which built a Cloud IoT / Firebase service (patent #[EP3694175B1](#)), capable of handling queries from millions of IoT devices.
- TL of a “startup” within Google that launched < 2Q to deliver high-value data on Merchant Trust. Designed and built scalable financial integrations with Mastercard, Citibank and Galileo Processing.
- Multi-year experience building robust systems which handle all facets of the eCommerce lifecycle - ordering, payment, and fulfillment. Proven track record in designing and creating products which give immediate and significant lift to merchants' bottom and top lines (revenue and profit).

**Tech Skills:** AI, LLM, C++, Java, Dart, Flutter, Python, API Design, Microservices, Stubby, Spanner, BigTable, PubSub, Oracle, MySQL, Google Cloud Services (GCP), Map Reduce

## Career History

---

### **Alphabet / Google Germany, Berlin, DE** – *Technical Lead* – (Dec 2021 - Jan 2025)

- TL for Google Speak ([speak.google.com](https://speak.google.com)) within Google Research. Designed, developed and launched an effective generative AI language learning platform through which users could improve their language skills via spoken conversation.
- Managed the work of 25 engineers, cross-collaborated with PM/UX/UXR/QA/Legal to successfully launch in Oct 2023.
- Lead technical teams (TL) across multiple timezones: SFO, NYC, BER and HYD (India).
- Google Speak is a Google Search-based web-application with 1.5% CTR and 86% SATisfaction score. Used by over 50 million unique users (Jan 2025) in Indonesia, India, and Latin America.
- Google Blog Post: <https://research.google/blog/english-learners-can-now-practice-speaking-on-search/>

### **Alphabet / Google, New York, NY** – *Technical Lead* – (Oct 2017 - Nov 2021)

- Senior Lead for Google TV server team. Managed all 200+ global media providers. Built internal tools with [Flutter Web](#) (Dart). Owned Commerce pipelines for Google Play Movies.
- Server TL (Java) for greenfield social application in Google's Area120 code-named "Shoelace". iOS/Android/Web Flutter (Dart) application which facilitated in-person meetups to create real-world friendships and connections.
- Technical Lead for Google Cloud IoT
  - Wrote technical designs for new features / services within Cloud IoT.
  - Led and trained a remote team of 7 SWEs in Hungary to build/release new IoT services < 2Q.
  - Also led a team of 4 SWEs in NYC.
  - Authored new Patent (patent: #[EP3694175B1](#)).
  - Executed code reviews for my engineering teams.
  - Managed all engineering project plans, task lists and timelines.
  - Led cross-functional, horizontal-dependency, security, privacy meetings and launch reviews.

### **Alphabet / Google, Mountain View, CA** – *Technical Lead* – (Jun 2010 - July 2016)

- Technical Lead for multiple Google Ads / Shopping projects.
  - Executed design and code reviews for my engineering team.
  - Managed all engineering project plans, task lists and timelines.
  - Led cross-functional, security and external-partner meetings.
- Technical Lead for the new Payment Platform used by the "Purchases on Google" program.
  - The platform creates single-use, customizable credit/debit cards for use in EMEA and the US.
  - Integrates with multiple i18n payment providers and banks (i.e. MasterCard, Citibank, etc).
- Technical Lead for a Shopping "Startup" inside Google - launched in less than two (2) quarters.
  - Led overall technical system design, code reviews, task and launch requirements.
  - Designed and coded a secure Payment server to create and manage Virtual Credit Cards utilized by contractors.
  - Using data collection, international contractors, and statistical analysis, the program calculates ratings for thousands of merchants across US and EMEA.
  - Enables Google to ascertain merchant quality and merchant fraud.
  - Provides users/shoppers more knowledge of e-merchants and increases their trust with online shopping - thus raising both the size and frequency of orders.
  - Increased Ad Revenue by \$XXX,000,000
- Lead Engineer for Google Trusted Stores (GTS)
  - Designed and implemented a Global Shipment Tracking solution for the i18n-expansion of GTS.
  - Enabled shipment tracking in US, FR, AU, DE, and UK.
  - Technical Lead for integration with Stella Services, a 3rd party merchant-data source.
  - Technical Lead for all internal tools used by the entire Operations group.
  - Program handles over \$X Billion in order revenue.

**Skills / Tech:** Java, C++, Stubby Server/APIs, PubSub, Google Cloud, BigTable, F1, MapReduce, Python

### **Mercantila, San Francisco, CA** – *Senior Software Engineer* – (Oct 2008 - May 2010)

Mercantila is a specialty eCommerce retailer with more than 300 sites and catalog of 45,000 products. Rather than holding inventory, we work closely together with 1,200 vendors in a drop ship model.

- Technical Lead for the Engineering department (8 person team).
  - Designed and developed a complete eCommerce Order Fulfillment and Payment platform.
  - Led team in successful launch of “Exchange” platform in which thousands of vendors could manage the complete lifecycle of their orders in real-time -- from creation to fulfillment. On-time customer shipments immediately increased from sub-50% to 98%.
  - Designed Payment Engine whereby vendors were immediately paid upon order fulfillment and terms. This was facilitated via secure connections with regional banks.
  - Developed product-uploading tool for massive expansion of company’s product catalog. Enabled the company to add/update their product catalog in bulk.

**Skills / Tech:** *PHP, MySQL, XML, HTML, Javascript*

**Oracle, Belmont, CA** – *Principal Applications Engineer* – (Jul 1999 - Feb 2008)

- Coded & Designed for iProcurement Applications (11i, R12, & Fusion releases), part of an ERP System
  - Features, data model design, etc

**Skills / Tech:** Java EE (OC4J), JDBC, Oracle ADF (MVC Arch), PLSQL, SQL\*Plus

## Education

---

- California Institute of Technology, Pasadena – **MSEE (DSP, Cryptography)**
- University of Notre Dame, Indiana – **BSEE (Signals and Systems)**

