

JEFF A. STROUT

Chief Technology Officer | Chief Executive Officer | Digital Transformation Leader

Applying AI & Emerging Technologies to Accelerate Digital Transformation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transformational technology executive with 35+ years of success founding, scaling, and selling technology companies and leading enterprise-wide digital transformation. Built and led organizations from startup to 170+ employees across two continents, managing budgets up to \$50M while consistently exceeding performance targets. Deep expertise in IP networks, internet and cloud services, software development, and the technical aspects of mergers and acquisitions — with a track record of migrating 1M+ customers across complex infrastructure without service disruption. An experienced international traveler comfortable operating across cultures and time zones, known for a servant-leadership approach that builds high-performing teams and consistently earns high employee-approval ratings. Actively applies modern AI tools and platforms to accelerate digital transformation — from automating workflows and augmenting engineering teams to evaluating and integrating AI into products and operations.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Digital Transformation • AI Tools & Applied AI Strategy • Technology Strategy & Roadmaps • IP Networks & Internet Services • Cloud & Infrastructure • Software Development • Technical M&A Diligence & Integration • Large-Scale Migrations & Conversions • Team Building & Talent Development • P&L & Budget Management (\$50M) • International & Cross-Cultural Operations • Telecom & Call Centers

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Growth:** Led KnackForge from startup to a multinational operation, scaling 750% from 20 to 170+ employees across the U.S. and India.
- **Infrastructure:** Designed and deployed nationwide ISP services sized for 750,000+ customers with 99.9% uptime.
- **M&A:** Integral to \$2.5B+ in successful technology company sales and acquisitions.
- **Migration:** Migrated 1M+ customers from the @Home network to a new backbone; core team earned the highest corporate award ever given by Cox.
- **Innovation:** Pioneered early internet services in East Texas and deployed the region's first digital PRI circuits.
- **AI:** Hands-on with modern AI tools and platforms, applying them to automate workflows, augment engineering teams, and drive AI-enabled digital transformation.
- **Leadership:** Built engineering teams with exceptional 15+ year retention rates and consistently high employee-approval ratings.
- **Global:** Experienced international traveler, having worked across Latin America, Europe, and India — onshore and offshore — managing teams and clients across cultures and time zones.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NAVIDAD FORENSICS (a division of Navidad Energy Advisors)

Senior Consultant / Expert Witness

2024 - Present

Serve as a consultant and expert witness on technology matters in the oil & gas industry. Retained as an expert witness in a patent and trade-secret dispute involving software used in the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of oil wells — analyzing source code, system architecture, and technical documentation and translating complex software and engineering concepts for counsel. Apply decades of software development, IP networks, and operational leadership to forensic and litigation-support engagements.

KNACKFORGE, INC.

CEO / Co-Founder

2011 – 2024

Founded and led a multinational software development company headquartered in Tyler, Texas with R&D operations in Chennai, India. Transformed a 20-employee startup into a 170+ person organization specializing in digital transformation and cloud solutions, evolving the business from content management into cloud computing and enterprise software development for international clients. Managed cross-cultural teams across two continents, building deep expertise in international finance, multicultural workforce management, and global operations — while sustaining a culture of transparency, quality delivery, and servant leadership that drove exceptional employee retention and client satisfaction.

EVERYCARLISTED.COM

Vice President of Technology, Software Architect, Co-Founder

2007 – 2010

Designed both hardware and software systems for an automotive classified website, and recruited and managed a team of approximately 10 engineers. Company was sold to SuperMedia, a Verizon company.

SUDDENLINK COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President, IP Engineering and Operations

2006 – 2007

Owned the nationwide IP backbone, commercial services infrastructure, ISP services, network operations, and telephony, leading a team of ~75 engineers with 4 direct reports. Traveled extensively to regional operations and worked on strategic acquisitions.

COX COMMUNICATIONS

Director, IP Engineering and Operations

1999 – 2006

Responsible for a regional network spanning 7 states, ISP services, commercial services networks, IT infrastructure (4,000 Windows desktops), and network operations — merging traditional service-provider engineering with IT operations. Managed ~100 employees including engineers, project managers, NOC engineers, and 4 managers, with an annual department budget of \$35M–\$50M. Became part of the new Suddenlink company when Cox sold most of the former TCA properties.

TCA COMMUNICATIONS

Director, IP Engineering

1998 – 1999

Built an engineering team to deploy cable modems across the 7 states TCA serviced, including the network infrastructure and custom billing and provisioning software required in the early days of the internet. TCA was sold to Cox Communications.

INTERNET TYLER

Vice President, Network Engineering, Co-Founder

1995 – 1999

Performed much of the early engineering personally, then hired and led a team to build dial-up infrastructure. Became the first ISP in East Texas to deploy digital service with PRI circuits. Internet Tyler was sold to TCA Communications.

LOGWARE UNLIMITED, LLC

Vice President, Software Engineering, Co-Founder

1989 – 1997

As a startup co-founder, handled everything from software design and development to sales. Developed the first Windows-based drilling engineering and data acquisition application, traveling throughout Latin America and Europe across onshore and offshore locations. An exclusive license was sold to Varco/MD/Totco, which held 70% of the world's drilling-automation market share.

KEY PROJECTS

- **Suddenlink Nationwide ISP & Backbone** — Directed a team of 75+ on a \$50M build of a complete nationwide ISP from scratch, sized for 750,000 customers — including a 10-Gig IP backbone (Cisco CRS-1), mail infrastructure for 1M mailboxes, robust DNS/DHCP, two Nortel CS2000 switches for 100,000 lines, and seamless customer migration from Cox to Suddenlink.

- **Cox Self-Reliance Team** — Core member assigned to Atlanta for 9 months to form a team that designed, built, and migrated 1M+ customers from the @Home network after its Chapter 7 filing. The team won the highest corporate award ever given by Cox.
- **Cox Sale Team** — Documented enhanced services for the data room and presented technology to potential buyers for a region of Cox cable systems that sold for over \$2.5B.
- **Autonomous First-Responder Drone Platform** — Led the KnackForge team that took a first-responder drone platform from design through build to first flight — for both the aircraft and the autonomous “drone-in-a-box” port that houses, charges, and launches it. Delivered the real-time control-systems hardware and software enabling autonomous, on-demand flight, including OpenCV-based AI image recognition for onboard vision, with live video streamed in transit.
- **AI-Powered Surgical Device Software** — Led the KnackForge team that developed AI-based software for a surgical medical device, taking it from concept through development to validation in a live-animal study used to test the device's performance.
- **Everycarlisted.com** — Designed software and hardware infrastructure that imported 2M cars daily across redundant data centers and AWS, scaling to 1M+ unique visitors per month.
- **Cable Modems in TCA Systems** — Led early cable-modem deployment, building network to each system and writing custom billing and provisioning software still in use today.
- **Drilling Data Acquisition Software** — Designed software and UIs (Visual Basic 1.0) used on some of the world's largest drilling platforms; traveled internationally to sell, train, and install.

BOARD & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- **Educational Radio Foundation of East Texas (KVNE / KGLY)** — Board member 9 years; Chairman 2 years.
- **Smith County Red Cross** — Past board member.
- **Bethel Bible Church** — Member.

PERSONAL

Makes his home in Tyler, Texas. Married for 41 years with four grown children. Actively involved in non-profit organizations and community service.