Jeffery Kline, PhD

Strategy and Analytics Leadership · Planning, Decision Systems, Applied AI

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PROFILE

Strategy and analytics leader with a UW–Madison mathematics PhD and 15+ years turning complex operational and behavioral data into decisions leaders act on, across physics research (LIGO), adtech, insurtech, and fintech. Built and led Affirm's servicing planning function; founding scientist at a measurement startup through its acquisition.

STRENGTHS

Strategy: framing decisions; multi-year planning; prioritization under uncertainty; cost and service tradeoffs.
Leadership: building teams from zero; restructuring roles; aligning product, engineering, finance, and operations.
Methods: forecasting under uncertainty; optimization; measurement integrity; applied AI with verification; Python, SQL.

EXPERIENCE

Affirm **2022–2026**
Risk and Growth Analytics · Staff → Manager San Francisco, CA (remote)

- Built an analytics team from zero; led cross-functional planning, owning multi-year staffing and infrastructure plans for a high-eight-figure servicing budget while operations expanded from two to four geographies.
- On taking ownership, lifted service-level attainment from 53% to 100% and held it for more than two years; reduced US cost per transaction by over 25%, with plans secured to bring the total reduction above 35%.
- Helped design and led several pivots in the vendor network and operations structure, meeting service levels and cost guardrails without operational disruption and keeping cross-functional delivery on schedule.
- Secured a 20% cost reduction in one operating market through restructuring; shifted about 25% of team capacity from reactive work to longer-term problems.
- Replaced customer operations' unscalable legacy forecasting system without disrupting planning, and an infrastructure forecast so inaccurate it caused waste; new seasonal forecasts for peak-season and large-merchant-event capacity, with executive and board visibility, contributed to low-eight-figure savings and stable peak seasons.
- In 2026, moved the team's monthly analysis fully to agentic work; led AI forums and workshops; advised peer teams.

Neutronian **2020–2024**
Senior Consultant (part-time) San Francisco, CA (remote)

- Advised the founders on algorithms, data architecture, and validation; shaped the data-privacy rating and certification methodology adopted in client onboarding.

American Family Insurance **2019–2022**
AI/ML Innovation and Research Lead Madison, WI (hybrid)

- Led AI research programs with UW–Madison in transformers, optimization, and knowledge graphs, publishing at ICML, ICLR, and NeurIPS and EMNLP workshops; co-initiated the First Street Foundation partnership and built its MVP.

Hitwise **2018–2019**
Principal Data Scientist Santa Monica, CA (remote)

- Hired by the CEO to retire the legacy pipeline and rebuild the flagship product on new data sources, a company priority.

Comscore / MdotLabs **2013–2018**
Principal Data Scientist; Founding Scientist Reston, VA and Madison, WI

- Founding scientist at MdotLabs through Comscore's 2014 acquisition; became Comscore's technical lead and methodology expert for ad fraud. Named and first publicly described "domain laundering" (2014); investigated schemes such as a Google SafeFrame attack observed at up to 5M impressions per day.

LIGO Scientific Collaboration **2010–2013**
Postdoctoral Researcher Caltech/MIT; Milwaukee (hybrid)

- Built data replication for a federation of 96 universities, in service through the first gravitational-wave detection in 2015.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- **Publications:** nearly 30, including ICML, ICLR, and ACM IMC; *Linear Algebra and its Applications* (3), *Theoretical Computer Science*, *Discrete Applied Mathematics*, *Optimization Methods and Software*; and LIGO collaboration papers in *Physical Review D*. Full list at ORCID.
- **Patents:** one granted US patent and two published applications; an Affirm patent in progress.
- **Independent research, 2026–present:** direct Claude and Codex from idea generation through adversarial audit, verification, and reproducible public release at jeff-kline.github.io.
- **PhD, Mathematics** (convex optimization), University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2010.