EIGHT LEE

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OVERVIEW:

I'm a 20+ year software engineering veteran and award-winning product designer who loves being hands-on in every part of the building process; especially obsessed with customer feedback cycles and great documentation. I've experienced zero-to-one - all the way to Fortune 500 exit - and the effort, focus, and craftsmanship required to win 2 Apple Design Awards.

With a Masters in Education, I consider teaching, training, and coaching others an integral part of what I do and I'm particularly obsessed with AI, ML, (sub)agents, MCP servers, and more that are creating enormous productivity gains in for individuals and organizations. I want to continue my work in these areas, building internal and external tools and systems and collaborating with great teams to build great products.

CASCADING AI (YC23)
Founding Technical Product Manager - January 2025 to Present

As the Founding TPM for the first AI-native loan origination platform for banks, I built the fundamental product management systems that created alignment for design, product engineering, and GTM workflows using a combination of best-in-class tooling, MCP servers, specialized agents, and localized LLMs to automate the production and delivery of a unified design system, an automated documentation workflow for internal use and even customer release notes. I really enjoyed coaching and mentoring the very young staff one-on-one and through thoughtfully-crafted team presentations on product design, development, and documentation.

VALKYRIE AI
Chief Product Officer - January 2024 - December 2024

Valkyrie AI is a product and service business building solutions for customers like Pandora, SiriusXM, Carnival Cruise Lines, Call of Duty, and the Department of Defense using LLMs and Knowledge Graphs. As their first senior leader and founding product member, I designed the roadmap and architecture, built the principle PM workflows, and lead a team of scientists, designers, product marketers, external partners, and engineers. Together, we went from zero-to-one and acquired enterprise paying customers. Based on this momentum we raised $4.5m in pre-seed capital for a unique solution for the DoD, a tool to help manage disinformation and win the broader arena of psychological warfare for the United States.

DOTEARTH
Product Leader - October 2023 - January 2024

DotEARTH is an early-stage venture studio founded by Mark Pincus (CEO and Founder of Zynga) focused on designing and building generative AI (GenAI) products using frontier tech like OpenAI (ChatGPT), Stable Diffusion,

Midjourney, Hugging Face, Grok, and more with a special interest in crafting compelling, AI-powered experiences within creator-centric video game economies like Minecraft, Roblox, and more. I enjoyed researching and analyzing the broad landscape of opportunities and unpacking the power of generative AI latent in both B2B and B2C and exploring GTM strategies for each experiment.

SUPPORTLOGIC
VP of Product - January 2023 - October 2023

I took the operational responsibilities of our product line for our NLP, AI, ML enterprise support platform that had crossed $9M in ARR. I redesigned the PDL, reorg'd team for better skill focus, launched a Product Ops team, and built the roadmap across 3 revenue-generating products. Hired and fired to help grow ARR by over $1M.

HEAL.ME
Chief Technology Officer - May 2022 - December 2022

Responsible for leading and building the PDL for a consumer-facing marketplace and a SaaS platform for holistic health providers. Stayed hands-on in leading product management and roadmapping. Also contributed to the Series A venture capital deck, pitched to VCs, and built other operational internal tools.

SATS CORP
Head of Engineering - January 2022 - June 2022

A stablecoin mobile platform / savings product designed to help onramp an Nigeria as a first neobank. As the CTO and Head of Engineering I redesigned the PDL for greater team performance and clarity. Managed weekly product development ceremonies and created custom dashboards for executives and stakeholders.

YEN
Founder and CEO - January 2017 - December 2021

As CEO and Founder I designed, built, and launched the first iteration of our product, a cryptocurrency exchange and crypto-social network. I raised 2 institutional rounds of funding ($4.1M+) from top tier VC firms. I was most proud of the culture that I built around trust and transparency with the team through rigorous documentation to my global team and investors. Although we didn't get to product-market fit, I made it my mission post-venture to help all my staff find jobs and many of these folks are my friends today.

PINPOINT
Founder and Product Marketing - January 2016 - December 2018

Pinpoint extracts analytics and insights from codebase for engineering teams and we raised $16M+ in venture capital (I brought capital like Slackfund). I helped construct the first version of the product and was in charge of building our first customer base and community. Acquired by ShopMonkey in 2022.

THE IRON YARD
Founder and Chief Strategy Officer - January 2012 - December 2016

I cofounded the largest software coding bootcamp in the world after raising a round of venture capital. Began as an accelerator following the TechStars model, we pivoted to education and grew to 15 campuses across 10 states. I was responsible for building the campus operational systems and hiring the first 50 staff. Our journey came to an early end when Apollo Global Management acquired us (Fortune 500). I loved combining my passion for software engineering and education into a life-changing experience for customers and community.

DESK APP
Engineer and Founder - January 2013 - December 2018

Winner of 2 Apple Design Awards in 2014 and 2015, this minimalist macOS app was a fun, personal triumph in building a product and business as an indie dev. Featured worldwide in the every macOS App Store.

PRESSGRAM
Founder - January 2012 - December 2014

Used Kickstarter.com to crowdsource $56k+ for an iOS image-sharing app. Grew the community, product and content network. Raised an additional $300k for version 2.0 which failed to find product-market fit.

8BIT
Founder and CEO - January 2009 - December 2013

Built a Top 10 best "premium" WordPress theme company using a hybrid open source model. Launched a top WordPress-centric news blog as Editor in Chief and primary writer. Grew a services business and a team to 13. Our product was acquired by Automattic (WooThemes) and the content network was acquired by WPEngine.

NORTH POINT MINISTRIES
Creative Director - January 2008 - December 2010

Oversaw internal and external products from websites to full end-to-end mobile apps for events. I helped launch our very first. ChMS. Introduced Web2.0 technology to the culture while coaching senior leadership on best practices. Oversaw deployment of their first live streaming platform with chat and online giving.

FOX AND NEWSCORP
Product Director - January 2008 - June 2008

Managed the M&A and integration process of technology acquisitions into global business products. Acquired Beliefnet (largest Christian forum and social network) and integrated technology into Fox Sports.

DELL, INC
Developer - January 2006 - December 2008

As developer and content producer I helped deliver updates to the enterprise e-commerce business of Dell.com. I wrote software and delivered technical specs to operations, production, legal, and compliance. I also started an internal email newsletter sharing my thoughts on the growing Web2.0 movement.

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON
Developer - January 1999 - June 2005

I worked as an intern and then contractor building internal tools and external websites for Acuvue.com before and during college. I introduced Macromedia Flash to the organization and demo'd an implementation with motion graphics, a soundtrack, and interactive elements in the browser.

EDUCATION:

Georgia Institute of Technology - 2001 to 2005 - Science, Technology, and Culture
Dallas Seminary - 2006-2013 - Masters of Education and Masters of Biblical Studies

VOLUNTEER:

Mentor, Blue Startups - Helping entrepreneurs succeed in their accelerator cohorts.
Coach / Speaker, University of Hawai'i - Career coaching to younger engineers think bigger.
Soccer Coach - "F" and "G" Coaching License(s) through US Soccer Federation for U7 / 8 co-ed teams.
TEK Styles - Hip-hop and breakdance instructor.
Defy Ventures - Mentor prison inmates to become EITs ("Entrepreneurs in Training").