

Eight Lee

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OVERVIEW

20+ year software engineer and 2x Apple Design Award winner. Architect, CTO, Head of Product Design and Engineering, DevOps, and GTM.

Built a native speech-to-text, GPU-accelerated terminal. Founded and raised venture capital for decentralized finance to EdTech bootcamps (acquired by Fortune 500). Obsessed with systems, speed, and all my (sub) agents equally.

EXPERIENCE

Software Architect, YEN; San Francisco, CA — 2025-Present

GPU-accelerated macOS terminal application delivering 60 FPS rendering with sub-millisecond I/O latency. Engineered native macOS integrations including first-ever native voice-to-text dictation, a Go-based TUI config system, and bundled CLI tooling with 15+ shell commands.

- Architected vendor-overlay build system maintaining upstream compatibility while applying cosmetic customizations.
- Implemented voice dictation using Apple's Speech Recognition framework with accessibility permissions (and without the use of AI!).
- Built configuration TUI using Go / Bubbletea with real-time terminal reload via SIGUSR2 signaling. Deployed automated release pipeline with code signing, Apple notarization, and Sparkle delta updates.

Stack: Zig, Swift / SwiftUI, Go, Metal, Apple Speech, Sparkle, Xcode

Chief Technology Officer, AltoaX; London, UK — 2024-Present

Core architect for a multi-tenant data intelligence platform for institutional fund managers — full ownership (full stack) from database schema to production deployment to GTM material and RevOps.

- Serverless-first architecture on Vercel Edge (100+ PoPs) with Next.js 16 App Router and React 19 Server Components. PostgreSQL 15 with 200+ RLS policies across 70+ tables enforcing tenant isolation at the query layer, not application layer. Cookie-based JWT auth with automatic session refresh via proxy middleware; server-side validation against auth service on every request. Denormalised counters via database triggers eliminating N+1 queries on dashboard loads.
- GPT-4o integration with hierarchical knowledge retrieval: custom entries → system entries → static knowledge → analytics context → LLM fallback. Multi-format extraction pipeline (PDF, Excel, Word, CSV, ODS, PPTX) processing 1,600+ files/sec with automatic OCR fallback via GPT-4o Vision for scanned documents. Streaming 128K token context windows and fund manager-customizable system prompts.
- Portfolio analytics API: Sharpe, Sortino, Calmar ratios, CAGR, max drawdown, volatility — TypeScript with optional Python FFN service for mean-variance optimization.

- Custom HyperFormula plugin with PE/VC functions (TVPI, DPI, RVPI, MOIC, ESGSCORE) integrated into AG Grid spreadsheet interface. Security sandbox blocking dangerous Excel functions (WEBSERVICE, IMPORTDATA, HYPERLINK) to prevent data exfiltration.
- 2.5s builds, ~150ms cold starts, <100ms TTFB, <1.5s LCP. 30 d-second in-memory cache with per-user isolation and FIFO eviction. Real-time subscriptions via Supabase Realtime with RLS-filtered payloads.

Tech Stack: TypeScript (strict mode), Next.js 16, React 19, Tailwind v4, shadcn/ui, Supabase (Postgres + Auth + Storage + Realtime), OpenAI, Vercel, Bun

Head of Product Engineering, DeathNote; San Francisco, CA — 2024-Present

Production digital legacy platform enabling users to compose encrypted final messages with automated proof-of-life verification and conditional delivery to designated contacts.

Engineered a complete end-to-end system spanning encrypted note composition, AI-powered eulogy generation, memorial pages, and a multi-stage alerting pipeline (80-hour reminders, 24-hour warnings, final delivery).

- Architected dual-layer authentication using Clerk JWT + Supabase Row Level Security with 70+ PII filtering patterns. Implemented automated cron jobs with duplicate prevention and configurable delivery windows
- Built 25+ secure API endpoints with Zod validation, rate limiting, and comprehensive error handling. Integrated Stripe subscriptions with tiered access control (free/paid intervals, contact limits). Created 16 transactional email templates using React Email with Resend delivery.

Tech Stack: Next.js 16, React 19, TypeScript, Supabase, Clerk, Stripe, AI SDK, Bun, Tailwind CSS, Vercel

DevOps Engineer, Particularly Web Diagnostics; Atlanta, GA — 2022-Present

Web platform delivering 100+ network diagnostic and DevOps utilities through 50+ RESTful API endpoints. Engineered tools spanning DNS analysis (propagation, DNSSEC, reverse lookups), network diagnostics (ping, traceroute, MTR, port scanning), SSL / TLS inspection, security header auditing, and IP geolocation.

- Architected rate-limiting infrastructure using Upstash Redis with tiered throttling. Implemented comprehensive SSRF protection and input validation across all endpoints.
- Deployed on Vercel with Next.js 16, achieving sub-second response times. Integrated AI-powered content summarization and text-to-speech via Hugging Face APIs.

Stack: Next.js 16, React 19, TypeScript, Bun, Tailwind CSS, Zod, Vercel, Redis

Founding Technical Product Manager, Cascading AI; San Francisco, CA — 2025-2026

Built the PM foundation for the first AI-native loan origination platform serving community banks and credit unions. Owned the full product lifecycle from discovery through delivery, establishing repeatable workflows across design, engineering, and GTM.

- Designed and shipped an AI-powered loan decisioning pipeline leveraging MCP servers, specialized agents, and localized LLMs to automate underwriting workflows

- Built a unified design system and automated documentation workflow powering internal tooling, customer release notes, and onboarding materials. Established cross-functional alignment rituals that reduced cycle time between product discovery and engineering delivery.
- Mentored early-career staff through structured one-on-ones and team presentations on product design, development methodology, and technical documentation

Stack: MCP Servers, AI Agents, LLMs, Figma, Linear, Notion

Chief Product Officer, Valkyrie AI; Austin, TX — 2023-2024

Founding product leader at a counter-disinformation AI company building NLP and Knowledge Graph solutions for the Department of Defense, Pandora, SiriusXM, Carnival Cruise Lines, and Call of Duty. Scaled the company from zero revenue to enterprise contracts and a \$4.5M pre-seed raise.

- Designed the product roadmap and system architecture as the first product hire, establishing the technical vision for LLM and Knowledge Graph-powered threat detection. Established the principle PM workflow framework adopted across all product initiatives/
- Built and led a cross-functional team of scientists, designers, engineers, product marketers, and external partners from inception through paying enterprise customers. Defined and executed the go-to-market strategy for a novel counter-disinformation platform targeting U.S. defense and intelligence community stakeholders/.

Stack: LLMs, Knowledge Graphs, NLP, Python, Cloud Infrastructures

VP of Product, SupportLogic; San Jose, CA — 2023-2024

Led product operations for a \$9M+ ARR enterprise support intelligence platform powered by NLP, AI, and ML. Drove organizational restructuring, new product launches, and revenue growth exceeding \$1M in incremental ARR.

- Redesigned the Product Development Lifecycle (PDL) to improve velocity and cross-team alignment, reducing time-to-ship for critical features. Reorganized the product team around skill-based pods, improving ownership clarity and delivery predictability
- Launched a Product Ops function and built the roadmap across 3 revenue-generating products from discovery through GA release. Hired and onboarded product talent to support the scaling organization.

Stack: NLP, ML, AI, Enterprise SaaS

Product Prototyper, dotEARTH; San Francisco, CA — 2022-2023

Designed and built generative AI product experiments for venture studio founded by Mark Pincus (CEO and Founder of Zynga). Explored GenAI applications across gaming, creator economies, and B2B/B2C verticals.

- Architected and prototyped GenAI-powered experiences using OpenAI (ChatGPT), Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, Hugging Face, and Grok across multiple product concepts.
- Developed GTM strategies for AI-native products targeting creator-centric video game economies like Minecraft, Roblox, and other virtual worlds.

Stack: OpenAI API, Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, Hugging Face, Python

Founder, CEO, YEN.io; San Francisco, CA — 2017-2022

Founded, designed, and built a cryptocurrency exchange and crypto-social network from concept through two institutional funding rounds totaling \$4.1M+ from top-tier VC firms. Led a globally distributed team through product development, fundraising, and eventual Crypto Social / Bitcoin Community SaaS wind-down in 2022.

- Raised 2 institutional rounds of venture capital (\$4.1M+) through rigorous documentation for transparent investor relations.
- Designed and shipped the first iteration of a crypto exchange with integrated social networking features, handling real-time order books and wallet management

Stack: Blockchain, Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency, Nodejs, CSS, React, AWS, GCP

Indie App Builder, Desk App; San Francisco, CA — 2013-2018

Designed and shipped an award-winning minimalist macOS blogging application as a solo indie developer. Featured worldwide in the Mac App Store and recognized with 2 Apple Design Awards (2014, 2015).

- Won 2 Apple Design Awards for interface design and user experience excellence; achieved worldwide feature placement in the Mac App Store and permanent editorial collections ("Apps for Writers").

Stack: Objective-C, Cocoa, macOS SDK, Xcode

Chief Strategy Officer, The Iron Yard; Atlanta, GA — 2012-2016

Cofounded and scaled the largest software coding bootcamp in the world, growing from a single accelerator cohort to 15 campuses across 10 states before acquisition by Apollo Global Management (Fortune 500).

- Designed and built the campus operational infrastructure supporting 15 simultaneous locations, including enrollment, scheduling, facilities, and instructor management systems. Hired the first 50 staff members, establishing the organizational culture and operational playbook that scaled across all campuses.
- Pivoted the business model from a TechStars-style accelerator to a tuition-based education platform, unlocking the growth trajectory to national scale. Navigated the company through acquisition by Apollo Global Management, ensuring continuity for students, staff, and partners

Tech Stack: WordPress, Ruby on Rails, iOS, Obj-C, PHP, MySQL, Linux, Apache

Founder, Community Builder, Pressgram; Atlanta, GA — 2012-2014

Built and launched an iOS image-sharing application through a successful \$56K+ Kickstarter campaign. Grew a content community, raised an additional \$300K for version 2.0, and navigated the product through market exploration.

- Designed and shipped a native iOS photo-sharing app with custom filters, social feeds, and WordPress publishing integration. Built and managed a content creator community through organic marketing and engagement.

Stack: Objective-C, iOS SDK, WordPress API, Xcode

Executive in Chief, CEO, 8BIT LLC; Atlanta, GA — 2009-2013

Built a Top 10 "premium" WordPress theme company and a leading WordPress-centric news publication. Grew the business to a 13-person team with two revenue streams (themes + services) before both products were acquired: Themes by Automattic (WooThemes) and network by WP Engine.

- Designed and shipped premium WordPress themes that consistently ranked in the Top 10 marketplace listings, generating recurring revenue from thousands of customers.
- Launched and scaled a WordPress news blog to a top industry publication, serving as Editor in Chief and primary writer.

Stack: PHP, WordPress, MySQL, HTML/CSS, JavaScript

Creative Web Director, North Point Ministries; Atlanta, GA — 2008-2010

Led digital product strategy and creative technology initiatives for one of the largest churches in the US. Oversaw the design and development of websites, mobile applications, and live streaming infrastructure.

- Directed the development and launch of the organization's first end-to-end mobile applications for event management and community engagement and first live streaming platform with real-time chat and integrated online giving; a pioneering implementation in the nonprofit space.
- Introduced Web 2.0 technologies and modern development practices to the organization, coaching senior leadership on digital strategy and best practices. Managed the full product lifecycle for both internal tools (ChMS) and public-facing digital experiences.

Stack: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Flash, WordPress, Streaming Infrastructure

Executive Product Director, FOX Corporation; New York, NY — 2008-2009

Managed technology M&A integration and product strategy for Fox Corporation's digital business unit. Led the acquisition and technical integration of Beliefnet (the largest Christian forum and social network) into the Fox Sports digital ecosystem.

- Managed the migration and integration of a large-scale social networking platform (millions of users) into Fox Sports' existing infrastructure. Coordinated cross-functional teams across engineering, legal, and business development to execute the acquisition on schedule.

Stack: CMS, Social Networking, Social Media, Mergers and Acquisitions

Software Developer, DELL Technologies; Austin, TX — 2006-2008

Delivered software and content updates for Dell.com's enterprise e-commerce platform, one of the highest-traffic commercial websites in the world. Wrote production code and technical specifications spanning operations, production, legal, and compliance.

- Developed and deployed features on Dell.com's enterprise e-commerce platform serving millions of daily transactions across global markets. Authored technical specifications for cross-departmental stakeholders including operations, production, legal, and compliance teams.

- Pioneered an internal newsletter on emerging Web 2.0 technologies, evangelizing modern development practices across the organization.

Stack: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Enterprise CMS, E-Commerce Platforms

Developer, Johnson & Johnson; Jacksonville, FL — 1999-2005

Started as an intern and advanced to a larger development role building internal tools and consumer-facing websites for Acuvue.com, one of J&J's flagship consumer brands.

- Built and maintained internal tools and external websites for the Acuvue brand, supporting marketing campaigns and e-commerce initiatives across a Fortune 50 organization.
- Introduced Macromedia Flash to the organization, designing and developing an interactive prototype with motion graphics, soundtrack, and rich media elements.

Stack: Macromedia Flash, ActionScript, ASP, Cold Fusion, XML, JSP, EMCA

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology — Bachelors of Science in STaC — 2001-2005

Dallas Seminary — Masters of Education, Masters of Biblical Studies — 2006-2013

VOLUNTEER

Mentor, Blue Startups — Helping entrepreneurs in accelerator cohorts.

Speaker, University of Hawai'i — Career coaching to young engineers.

Soccer Coach — "F" and "G" License through US Soccer Federation.

TEK Styles — Hip-hop and breakdance instructor.

Defy Ventures — Coach inmates to be Entrepreneurs post-prison.