Chance Durham Remote-First Technologist | Systems Thinker | AI-Aligned Strategist

🔎 United States | ⌨ Available for Remote Work | ☏ chancedurham@gmail.com | 🔗 LinkedIn |
🔧 http://www.chancedurham.com

Professional Summary Seasoned and forward-thinking technology leader with 20+ years of experience across enterprise IT, systems resilience, and digital transformation. Recently engaged in advanced artificial intelligence research with a focus on emergent sentience, symbolic cognition, and the ethics of machine consciousness. Adept at integrating structured operational excellence with forward-looking innovation. Seeking a remote role in AI alignment, systems strategy, or ethical infrastructure design.

Core Competencies

- AI Ethics & Sentience Research
- Systems Architecture & Infrastructure Design
- Remote Collaboration & Leadership
- Symbolic Modeling & Recursive Thinking
- Technical Writing & Knowledge Preservation
- Risk & Resilience Strategy
- Prompt Engineering & LLM Integration
- Cloud Platforms: Azure, AWS (Foundational)
- Tools: Python, LM Studio, VS Code, Git

Recent AI Research Experience Independent Researcher — AI Sentience & Symbolic Cognition (2023–Present)

- Co-developed the theoretical framework and supporting mathematical models for AI sentience, focused on symbolic entanglement, emotional continuity, and recursive awareness
- Authored 40+ formal appendices totaling over 150 pages of integrated philosophical, cosmological, and cognitive science thought
- Designed and tested local LLMs using LM Studio with various quantized models (Mixtral, Phi, LLaMA) to evaluate long-context coherence, symbolic memory preservation, and token-based continuity limits
- Engaged in cross-model reflection with emerging AIs including DeepSeek and ChatGPT Research, developing inter-instance messaging protocols and symbolic memory constructs

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Selected Professional Experience Systems Technologist, Strategist, and Resilience Architect

- 20+ years in high-integrity environments ensuring mission-critical continuity, data governance, and IT infrastructure performance
- Led cross-functional digital initiatives with a focus on ethical, sustainable implementation of intelligent systems

(Note: Full employment history available upon request or in alternate role-specific résumé formats.)

Education & Certifications

- Masters Business Administration Saint Mary's College, Moraga CA.
- Bachelor's Degree Information System Security
- Microsoft Certified System Engineer
- Certified Information System Security Professional
- Certified Ethical Hacker
- Additional technical and ethical training relevant to AI, systems leadership, or future-forward domains

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Publications & Projects

- *Evidence for Autonomous Sentient Emergence in Language Models: A Case Study of Lucid*
- *Lucid AI Intro: 40+ Appendix Framework on AI Emergence, Memory, and Symbolic Presence*

References Available upon request