**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

**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

**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