

DANIEL OLSHANSKY

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ABOUT ME

Superpower: Working, learning, reflecting, and adapting. **Approach:** Work is integrated into my life. I operate through long, focused stretches of deep work punctuated by intense sprints. I gather context throughout the day and make tough decisions by constantly weighing the tradeoffs between execution and ideology, often after a good night's sleep and a morning workout. **Mindset:** Physical training taught me the mind-body connection; mental training taught me self-awareness. I extend this to understanding context and people, creating environments that drive the best outcomes and push others to do their best work. **Craft:** Deep software tech; building systems, tools, and infrastructure that scale ideas from zero to lasting impact. **Drive:** To build a generational company with a timeless brand that inspires future founders as I push the frontier forward. **Success:** When personality quirks become traits others seek to learn from.

EXPERIENCE

CTO @ Grove | Head of Protocol @Pocket Network

2022 - Present

- **What I learned:** Emotional intelligence matters more than raw intellect when leading teams and organizations
- **What I did:** Led R&D for a permissionless API marketplace, bridging a small core team and a large ecosystem to enable decentralized data access at scale
- **Result:** Oversaw the migration and launch of a \$100M+ protocol powering over \$1B in daily network requests across dozens of exchanges and hundreds of stakeholders

Founder & CEO @ GetSoils

2021 - 2022

- **What I learned:** Selling new technology to legacy industries is far harder than building it
- **What I did:** Built a construction marketplace for excess soil from zero to one, connecting contractors and disposal sites
- **Result:** Validated market demand but uncovered critical lessons about adoption cycles in traditional industries

Senior Software Engineer @ Waymo (Alphabet)

2020 - 2022

- **What I learned:** Developed deep intuition around AI, ML, and evaluation frameworks, and how to enable data science teams to focus on research instead of infrastructure
- **What I did:** Built the test-set data corpus and labeling infrastructure that streamlined evaluation workflows for the Planner Eval team
- **Result:** Created a data corpus spanning thousands of real and synthetic datasets, used by dozens of data scientists across the company to run hundreds of evaluations; this work laid the foundation for an organization-wide evaluation initiative

Lead Software Engineer @ Magic Leap

2016 - 2020

- **What I learned:** How to collaborate across hardware, research, product, and gaming teams; how to navigate cross-organizational politics; and what happens when a company raises too much, too early
- **What I did:** Architected and built a cloud-based digital twin of the real world, leveraging raw sensor data for object recognition and both sparse and dense mapping to enable cross-reality experiences
- **Result:** Supported the launch of the Magic Leap One (ML1), released the first version of Magic Leap's Shared World SDK, and led a team of five engineers while contributing to more than fifteen patents

Software Engineer @ Twitter

2014 - 2015

- **What I learned:** How large organizations operate, how to design scalable systems, and how to evolve from simply coding to true engineering
- **What I did:** Designed and built features across the entire stack - mobile, web, and backend
- **Result:** Delivered GIF search, custom timelines, and follow-graph features for verified users; prototyped emoji reactions and new profile page functionality

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

2010 - 2014

B.A.Sc in Engineering Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering • GPA: 3.84 • Dean's List • NΨ 1T4

William Lyon Mackenzie CI

2006 - 2010

Awards: Chemistry, Physics, Math, Top Overall Average • **Extracurriculars:** President of Programming Club • VP of Ping Pong Club

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Writing: Posts, Thoughts, Substack, Medium

Consuming: Books, Podcasts, Movies, TV

Presenting: YouTube playlist of Talks & Interviews

Publishing: Google Scholar

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Soft: First-principles thinking, System design, Technical leadership, Cross-functional collaboration

Hard: Go, Python, Blockchain, ML/AI, Infrastructure, Kubernetes

Interests: Writing, Hiking, Value investing, Calisthenics, Meditation, Improv, Biographies

Languages: English, Russian, Hebrew