DANIEL OLSHANSKY

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ABOUT ME

Superpower: Working, learning, reflecting, and adapting. **Approach**: Work is integrated into my life; I alternate between long stretches of deep focus and short bursts of intensity. I gather context throughout the day and make tough decisions by weighing execution against ideology—usually 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 apply both to understanding people and context, creating environments that enable the best outcomes. **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, connecting a small core team with a broad ecosystem to enable decentralized data access
- **Result**: Launched a $100M+ protocol handling $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 corpus and labeling infrastructure that streamlined evaluations 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 execution
Hard: Go, Python, blockchain, ML/AI, cloud infrastructure, Kubernetes
Interests: Writing, hiking, value investing, calisthenics, meditation, improv, biographies
Languages: English, Russian, Hebrew