

Sam Patterson

Technical Builder & Communicator

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I've spent 15 years building at the intersection of technology, communication, and community — from founding a tech policy program in DC, to co-founding a venture-backed decentralized marketplace, to writing about Bitcoin before most people had heard of it. Today I build AI-powered tools and write about emerging technology, regularly reaching the front page of Hacker News.

EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder & Head of Operations

2015 – 2020

OB1 (OpenBazaar) · Remote

- Co-founded and helped build OpenBazaar, an open-source decentralized marketplace using Bitcoin for peer-to-peer commerce
- Raised \$9M in venture capital from Andreessen Horowitz and Union Square Ventures
- Served as developer advocate and documentation lead, managing a global open-source community
- Featured in Wired, Forbes, Yahoo Finance; presented at conferences in Prague, Guatemala, New Hampshire

Senior Policy Analyst & Research Fellow

2011 – 2015

Stand Together · Washington DC

- Founded and directed the technology policy program
- Conducted research on how technology policy affects individual well-being
- Created the Crony Chronicles project, a public awareness initiative on political cronyism

Freelance Technical Writer & Voiceover Artist

2020 – Present

Remote

- Technical tutorials and educational content for open-source projects
- Recorded and published audiobooks on Audible
- Blog writing with multiple Hacker News front-page hits

SELECTED WRITING & RESEARCH

o3 Beats a Master-Level GeoGuessr Player — Even with Fake EXIF Data

#1 on Hacker News

My Grandma Was a Fed — Lessons from Digitizing Hundreds of Hours of Childhood

Hacker News front page

Visualizing Why Bitcoin Can't Work Over HF Radio

Interactive visualization + video

Artificial Advocates: Biasing Democratic Feedback Using AI

3rd place, Apart Hackathon — led to Apart Labs Fellowship

Bitcoin Beginner

One of the first books published about Bitcoin (2013)

Breakdown of All Satoshi's Writings

Analysis with accompanying video

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python

JavaScript

React

Node.js

PostgreSQL

Linux

Git

AI/LLM Integration

WebRTC

Self-hosted Infrastructure

Technical Writing

Developer Advocacy

EDUCATION

General Assembly — Full-Stack Software Engineering Immersive	2024
Alfred University — B.A. Political Science	2010

PRESENTATIONS

Hacker's Congress, Paralelní Polis (Prague) · CryptoEcon Conference (Saigon) · Hillsdale College Free Market Forum · PorcFest XIII (New Hampshire) · Universidad Francisco Marroquín (Guatemala) · Liberty.me