

# Alan Norbauer | [alan@norbauer.com](mailto:alan@norbauer.com) | <https://alan.norbauer.com>

## WHO I AM

### **Web development is my life. I've been doing it since I was a kid.**

Although I started as a professional developer working on Microsoft Office, learning the intricacies of C++ and Win32, engineering for the web is my first and greatest love.

I have built JavaScript frameworks, single-page applications, server back-ends, TCP/IP chat servers, even bookmarklets more complicated than many phone apps—deployed in products used by *billions* of users.

### **I believe that building for the web can be rigorous.**

Web development may not be civil engineering, but it still demands a methodical approach. I love learning about, using, and mentoring people on the tools and practices that help engineering teams grow to thousands of developers and enable applications to serve billions of users. Whether it's, for example, strict TypeScript or [Relay-style GraphQL](#), these ideas can be taught to the most junior engineers and embedded into the fabric of an engineering organization.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### **Anza (a Solana Labs spinoff) - Software Engineer** - 2025 to 2026

Anza created and maintains the core software powering the Solana blockchain. I worked on a distributed Rust application that is a critical part of the network's infrastructure.

### **Netflix - Senior Software Engineer** - 2022 to 2025

I led an effort to improve and promote shared engineering tools and practices across the company. I added new features to internal web apps that improved user workflows, reliability, and performance. I standardized my team's tech stack for multiple web apps, sped up our build tooling and CI pipeline, and added testing and linting.

### **Facebook - Front End Engineer** - 2016 to 2022

I was a founding member of the team that rebuilt facebook.com from scratch in 2020, which we grew from a group of 2 to 50. I contributed to the prototype, was a tech lead for the Facebook Groups product rewrite, led all experimentation, and managed the gradual rollout.

I had many side projects that had broad, company-wide impact, such as applying Prettier, the automatic code formatter, to the entire Facebook codebase.

### **Microsoft - Senior Software Engineer** - 2006 to 2016

I received numerous company accolades/awards (e.g. multiple patents, "Gold Stars", "high-potential" employee program, direct praise from Satya Nadella), was a formal mentor to peers, and was coach and recruiter for the Microsoft Foundry intern program.

*Visual Studio Team Services (visualstudio.com)*

Delivered features and led a performance improvement project on a single-page app related to Git version control

*Azure Machine Learning*

Developer on a UX team building a rich, browser-based IDE for Data Scientists.

*Office division*

Worked on projects spanning a wide range of languages and platforms such as building a jQuery framework replacement, Win32 development in C++, server development in C#, iOS development in Objective-C, etc.

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## OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS

### **Bookcision** - Bookmarklet to download Kindle highlights & notes, now part of Readwise

Architecture Write-up: <https://alan.norbauer.com/articles/bookcision>

### **handlebars-loader** - webpack plug-in for handlebars template compilation - [100K downloads/week on npm](#)

**Monorepo** for all my npm packages: <https://github.com/altano/npm-packages>

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## WRITING

### **My writing has been featured at the top of programming sites like Hacker News and Lobste.rs:**

[67 Weird Debugging Tricks Your Browser Doesn't Want You to Know](#) ([Hacker News discussion](#))

[Relay-style GraphQL](#) ([Lobste.rs discussion](#))

[Upgrade your Development Environments with Devbox](#) ([Lobste.rs discussion](#))

More writing at <https://alan.norbauer.com>

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## EDUCATION

### **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** - B.S. in Computer Science, minor in Social Psychology, 2002-2006