

Brian Takita

Building emergent software systems through agent loops — spec-driven development, automated verification, and collaborative intelligence tooling where agents and humans work in parallel with full context. 20+ years full stack experience.

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Summary

Over 20 years of software development experience developing full-stack applications. Most recently built the full real-time AI avatar pipeline at Presence AI. Now focused on spec-driven agent tooling and collaborative intelligence workflows.

Utilizes philosophy, logic, language, & qualitative/quantitative approaches to create software models to explore & accurately represent the domain.

Top Skills: Spec-Driven Development, Agents, Rust, Python, TypeScript, Zig

Experience

Presence AI — Lead Backend Engineer, AI Pipeline

April 2024 – February 2026

- Architected and shipped the entire real-time video pipeline: facial landmark detection, LatentSync lip-sync inference (VAE decode, denoising, restoration), idle video generation, and frame sequencing on NVIDIA H100 GPUs via LiveKit
- Architected a multi-service AI monorepo with closed-loop agentic workflows and self-auditing development infrastructure (Claude Code / Codex)

- Developed an iterative agentic development methodology: lightweight living specs refined through closed-loop agent auditing and continuous human-in-the-loop feedback, accelerating design velocity while staying in flow with the emerging design
- Built reusable async primitives for high-quality agent-authored code and human comprehension: task lifecycle management, scoped cancellation, lazily resolved dependencies that decouple initialization order and cascade invalidation through the context, runtime profile logging, and stable cross-stack naming to maintain conceptual coherence for both human and agent reasoning
- Improved lip-sync quality through landmark temporal smoothing, LatentSync model upgrades, and optimized Whisper audio feature extraction via improved audio stream batching

Open Source — Creator / Solo Developer

2002 – Present

corky — Git-Based Correspondence Toolkit (Rust) github.com/btakita/corky | Docs

- Built a git-native correspondence system that syncs topics, contacts, and threads from email (IMAP), Telegram, and Slack into scoped markdown mailboxes, with per-topic and per-contact agent context that propagates across collaborators via 3-way merge
- Designed multi-scope mailbox architecture where each collaborator receives only relevant threads and context, with bidirectional sync using content hashing (FNV-1a) and git-based conflict resolution for offline-first collaboration
- Implemented crash-safe incremental IMAP sync with streaming merge, bulk import for Slack and Telegram archives, and label-based routing rules that fan out threads to multiple mailboxes
- Dog-fooding daily for personal and professional correspondence across Gmail and Protonmail accounts

agent-doc — Git-Native Document Sessions with AI Agents (Rust) github.com/btakita/agent-doc

- Created a document-as-interface model for persistent AI conversations: edit a markdown file offline, submit diffs, agent responds inline — all tracked through git commits for full session history and branch-based workflows

- Engineered write-safe concurrent editing via 3-way merge (snapshot + user edits + agent response), preventing data loss when human and agent edit simultaneously
- Built agent-agnostic core with pluggable LLM backends, automatic pre-commit of user changes, and snapshot-based diffing so only changed content is sent to the agent
- Dog-fooding as the primary interface for planning and iterating on both corky and agent-doc development

Other contributions:

RSpec — Core contributor to the Ruby Behavior Driven Development (BDD) testing framework

SvelteJS — Contributor

RMemo/RelementJS — Creator. Smallest & most composable reactive isomorphic component library in JavaScript

rappstack — Creator. Full-stack framework using BunJS & Elysia for extensible web app modules

Access Query Analyzer — Creator. .NET WinForms query analyzer for MS Access

lazily-py — Creator. Lazy evaluation with context caching in Python

lazily-zig — Creator. Cross-platform & thread-safe lazy evaluation with context caching in Zig

Brian Takita — Full Stack Web Engineer

January 2019 – Present

Manages, develops, & ensures success of short-term freelance software projects. Uses subcontractors for development. Web and mobile Flutter apps across all industries.

Censible — Lead Product Developer

January 2016 – Present | Greater New York City Area

Develop web solutions for Financial Services, centered around an Environment, Social, Governance (ESG) lens. These tools help investors align their investments with their values & manage exposure to ESG topics.

- censible.co
- esg.censible.co
- esg.censible.co/rebalance

SocialChorus — Senior Software Engineer

February 2018 – August 2018 | Remote

- Product Development on the Studio team
- Convert legacy Backbone FrontEnd to Svelte & React
- ES5 to ES6/ES2017 migration
- Create best practices for front-end component development

Neo Innovation, Inc. — Software Development Consultant

September 2015 – December 2015 | Greater New York City Area

Developed email-based research pipeline application for a financial holdings company. Workflow involves actor (i.e. CEO or sales) emailing contacts & contextual notes, to be researched and processed by the analyst team. The app semantically matches the text to companies & contacts in Salesforce to assist the analyst team with further refinements & analysis.

CrystalCommerce — Senior Software Developer

January 2015 – September 2015

Migrated production Rails app. Re-architected the front end using Node.js, Browserify, Gulp, and Backbone.

Rundavoo — Platform Architect / Lead Front End Developer

March 2013 – December 2014 | Greater Los Angeles Area

Led front-end development for Rundavoo, a Google top 75 app in 2014. Created a responsive, multi-platform (desktop, tablet, mobile, server) application that integrated with several APIs via CORS and a proxy server.

Technologies: HTML5, CSS3, Node.js, Browserify, Jasmine, reactive programming, Cloudflare, PhoneGap

Milyoni, Inc. — Architect / Lead Developer

March 2012 – March 2013 | Pleasanton, CA

Lead developer for Social Entertainment Platform including video, social marketing, gamification, real-time social interaction, and interactive engagements synced with video. Platform used by Warner Brothers, Lions Gate, Paramount Studios, Universal Music Group, Hearst Media, Starz, Ovation TV, Astro, Focus Features, Funimation, Sundance Now.

Mentor junior & mid-level developers. Proponent of flattening communication across the organization.

Technologies: Node.js, Backbone.js, Rails, Postgres, Redis, Heroku

TrueCar, Inc. — Senior Software Engineer

August 2010 – February 2012 | Santa Monica, CA

Senior member of advanced product team, which introduced new products, integrations with major partners (WSJ.com, USAA.com car reviews), and devops (Chef to automate EC2 architecture, workstations, and new datacenter servers). Rails 3 Upgrade. YUM packaging for deployment.

Led initiatives to share agile knowledge across the organization and integrate services.

honk.com — Lead Developer

August 2009 – August 2010

Vehicle review site and embeddable white-label platform used by USAA and Wall Street Journal Autos (invested by Fox News Corp, acquired by TrueCar). Led development and partnered on product vision for social car shopping that was key to the acquisition.

- Full-stack Ruby on Rails development
- High Availability deployment on EC2
- Javascript client/server event framework (jelly)
- Chef scripts for server and workstation automation

Pivotal Labs — Agile Engineer

January 2006 – August 2009

Agile Development in the XP tradition. TDD, Pair Programming, Daily Standups, Retrospectives. Worked with early startups to bootstrap their engineering process, team, and initial product. Leadership role in common code, practices, and open source.

Projects: Honk, Maven Link, KGB.com, Grockit, KDA Research, Real Girls Media, heavy.com, Bringo, CommunityWalk

Open source contributions: - Erector — Ruby Builder and Widget framework for generating HTML - JS Test Server — organized Javascript TDD - Unison — relational algebra Ruby library with events

Peer to Patent Project — Consultant

2007

Key contributor to launching the Peer to Patent pilot application, led by New York Law School. A tool to allow the crowd to review and submit prior art for pending patents.

NASPP — IT Analyst

February 2004 – January 2006

- SQL Server DB Admin
- Developed internal CRM with Rails, .NET & MS Access
- Website ASP development
- Reports for Sales Trends and forecasting

Flextronics — Web Application Developer Intern

May 2001 – February 2002

Developed corporate intranet using Microsoft technologies (ASP, SQL Server).

Education

University of the Pacific BS, Engineering Physics (1997 – 2002)

Certifications

- Advanced Permaculture Course in Teaching
- Permaculture Design Certificate