


DERICK OLSON-CHAN

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ABOUT ME

Writer, Teacher, and Engineer. I love language, software, and creative teams. I bring a grounded presence, deep listening, and clear communication. My approach to work: *Simplify and decide, Start with action, Ask and offer help.*

My background ranges from Computer Science to Buddhist Studies. Since 2015, I've worked as a Product Engineer in EdTech and eCommerce, taught university courses, and led workshops on Yoga, Meditation, Latte Art, and the Art of Fiction.



EDUCATION

- 2020 - 2023
University of Virginia
Master of Fine Arts | Creative Writing
- 2011 - 2015
University of Pennsylvania
Bachelor of Arts | Computer Science
Bachelor of Arts | East Asian Studies



SKILLS

- Full Stack Software Engineering
 - JavaScript + TypeScript + React + Node
 - GraphQL + Ruby on Rails + RESTful APIs
- Product Engineering
 - SEO + Feature testing
 - Accessibility-first development
- Developer Ecosystems
 - Unit + End-to-End Testing
 - Documentation (internal + public)
 - Demos + Presentations + Workshops
 - Pair Programming + Mentorship

VOLUNTEER/PART-TIME

- Barista, Enna Chocolate (2022-2023)
- Digital Humanities Assistant, UVA (Summer 2022)
- Poetry + Fiction Judge, Fralin Museum of Art (2020)
- Podcast Host, OpenMeditations.org (2018 – 2020)
- JavaScript Teacher, CodeNation (2017- 2019)
- Yoga Teacher, Yoga Society of SF (2016 - 2017)



REFERENCES

(Contact info available upon request)

- Micheline Marcom
Author | Professor of English, UVA
Founder + Director, New American Story Project
- Enna Grazier
Founder + Owner, Enna Chocolate
- Ronald Williams
Senior Engineer, Amazon
Former Director of Frontend Engineering, 1stDibs



WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023-current
Software Consultant
 - Helping others turn their ideas into web and mobile experiences.
 - Serving individual clients and agencies including Art+Logic and Toptal.
 - Tech stack: React, React Native, Node, Ruby on Rails.
- 2021-2022
University Instructor | University of Virginia
 - Empowering students to discover what, how, and why they write.
 - Taught two (2) semester-long undergraduate English courses in Fiction, Personal Narrative, and Composition.
 - Lectured and facilitated craft workshops, covering genres from Marketing Copy to Personal Memoir.
- 2017-2020
Product Engineer, 1stDibs | 1stdibs.com
 - JavaScript development on Core Funnel and International Teams for eCommerce platform with 5M+ monthly visitors.
 - Built automated translations system for launch of international websites in: Germany, France, & UK.
 - Shipped desktop and mobile UX across public-facing website: Landing / Search / Browse / Product / Checkout.
 - Technologies: React, Node, GraphQL, SEO+AMP, A/B Testing, i18n, GitHub Integrations, Mobile Web, Server-Side Rendering.
- 2015-2017
Product Engineer, Remind | [Remind.com/chat](https://remind.com/chat)
 - Full Stack development for EdTech messaging platform with 20M+ monthly active users on Web, iOS, and SMS.
 - Focus on speed, reliability, and micro-service architecture.
 - Shipped full-stack implementations of Web App redesign, Message Reactions, Profile Images, and Announcement database migration.
 - Technologies: Go, Ruby on Rails, React, Apollo, Twilio API, CircleCI, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB.
- 2013 – 2015
Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania
 - Weekly talks on Functional Programming (OCaml), Data Structures, Object-Oriented Design (Java), and Theory of Computation (LaTeX).