



HARPER REED

ABOUT

Harper Reed is a seasoned technologist and entrepreneur known for his impactful contributions across various domains. He has held significant roles at PayPal, Modest Inc., the Obama 2012 campaign, and Threadless.com, showcasing his ability to drive innovation in e-commerce, politics, and crowdsourcing. Most recently, Harper was the CEO of General Galactic Corporation, where he focused on shaping the future of the internet through web3 technologies and rational crypto offramps. Harper's commitment to education and collaboration is reflected in his advisory board roles, while his personal life in Chicago adds a human touch to his impressive journey.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A research organization focusing on the future of commerce
July 2024 – Present

Chicago, IL

CEO

Cofounder and CEO of 2389 Research.

Highlights

Focusing on the future of commerce and how applied AI can make commerce more excited and more robust

Building a team of amazing people

AI is wild

Galactic was a fintech company building web3 products that bridge between the traditional financial world and the new world of crypto.
July 2019 – July 2023

Chicago, IL

CEO

Cofounder and CEO of General Galactic Corporation.

Highlights

Build a team of amazing people to build amazing products

Raised 10.5 million dollars in a pre-seed and see round

Built a handful of products that helped guide users within crypto and fintech

Shut down the company in 2023 due to regulatory uncertainty

Joined a cohort of amazing people to be a delagate for USJLP.
July 2019 – July 2023

Seattle, WA / Kyoto, Japan

Delagate

Highlights

Worked with Japanese and American entrepreneurs to help build bridges between the two countries

Learned from our Japanese hosts about the culture and business practices in Japan

Joined a cohort of amazing people to be a 2018 Director's fellow.
May 2018 – May 2020

Boston, MA

Director's Fellow

Highlights

Work within the various groups at Medialab

Work with the E14 fund to help their entrepreneurs

Through the acquisition of Modest, inc by Paypal, Harper joined the Braintree team to help lead the commerce initiatives
August 2015 – April 2018

Chicago, IL

Senior Director, Software Development

Highlights

Helped establish and define contextual commerce and an emergent commerce function.

Did research about commerce in South East Asia

Helped facilitate build engineering teams and Braintree, Venmo and PayPal

Focused and fostered diversity efforts at the Chicago office of Braintree and PayPal

Modest is a mobile commerce platform that gives consumers the ability to buy from anywhere in just a few taps.
December 2012 – August 2015

Chicago, IL

Founder / Chief Executive Officer

Highlights

Built a platform that enabled retailers to launch and support mobile buying apps.

Hired amazing team.

Launched beautiful and highly converting apps into the iOS app store

Sold company in late 2015 to PayPal, Inc

Obama for America is the re-election campaign for President Barack Obama.
April 2011 – October 2012

Chicago, IL

Chief Technology Officer

Highlights

Hired world class technology team to build the technology platform for the reelection campaign.

Worked with team to help define and architect the solutions that helped reelect the president.

Rackspace is an IT hosting company with a focus on cloud.
October 2009 – April 2010

San Antonio, TX

Customer in Residence

Highlights

Worked with professional services department to help clients find the right solution.

Worked with executive staff to help define better customer experience

Represented Rackspace at conferences and small events.

skinnyCorp is the parent company of the Threadless.com.
August 2005 – October 2009

Chicago, IL

Chief Technology Officer

Highlights

Acted as technology leader for a company of ~60 people with revenue of ~20-30M

Worked in a close team to design, execute and manage community websites

Lead the technology to support Threadless.com growth.

Grew Threadless.com from 2 barely functioning servers to over 45 devices.

Helped bridge the gap between the internet and reality with 2 retail stores.

Spoke about our technology at various events and conference, representing skinnyCorp and the Threadless vision.

Managed a small team of engineers to handle the day to day maintenance and projects.

Squidoo is a community website that allows users to create pages for subjects of interest.
June 2005 – August 2005

New York, NY

Summer Intern

Highlights

Worked with Seth Godin and an amazing team to help build an design the initial version of Squidoo.

Helped define initial vision and technology for Squidoo before core staff was hired

Cramer And Krasselt is an industry leading medium sized advertising agency.
October 2004 – July 2005

Chicago, IL

Web Programmer

Highlights

Lead technologist and technical liaison to account management and creative staff.

Lead architect for client web applications. Worked with clients Airtran.com, Careerbuilder.com, and Barton Beers. (PHP, MYSQL, LINUX)

Lead engineer on full life cycle of Super Bowl viral campaign, Yeknominc.com. (PHP, MYSQL, LINUX)

Managed legacy operations for client web application management. (Perl, Navitaire SkyLights, JAVA)

World Book Publishing is a leading publisher of encyclopedias and children's learning material.
June 2001 – October 2004

Chicago, IL

Security and Software Engineer

Highlights

Lead development staff and managed offshore engineering team. Worked to develop and maintain World Book Publishing's client facing web presence. Helped usher in new technology and standards - moving from AIX, DB2 on IBM hardware to Solaris, Oracle on Sun Hardware. Introduced open source technology and solution. (Solaris, JAVA, DB2, AIX, XML)

Wrote desktop content management utilities to aid in management of XML content by non-technical staff. (C#, PHP)


Developed practices to insure content accessibility and data portability. (JAVA, XML, XSLT, C#, DB2)

Helped develop a solid software security plan. Worked with system engineers to architect a secure production environment. Deployed production servers using open source software to meet budget constraints. (LINUX, NMAP, NESSUS, SOLARIS, AIX)

AWARDS

2002

PRIX ARS ELECTRONICA

 Net Vision Honorary Mention

Awarded for the the audreyhacking.com community. The audreyhacking.com community was a community of people who hacked the 3Com Audrey, a linux based internet appliance. The community was a place for people to share their hacks and ideas around the 3com Audrey.

2010


MCIC

 Data Innovation Awards

Awarded for hacking the Chicago Transit Authority Bus API

2013

Crain's Chicago Business

 40 under 40

Awarded for being under 40 and for the work at Obama for America, Threadless, and the tech community

2013


Webby's

 Breakout of the Year

Awarded for the work at Obama for America

2013


Moxie Awards

 CTO of the Year

Awarded for the work at Obama for America

2014

Cornell College

 Young Alumni Achievement Award

Awarded for the work at Obama for America

2017

Asian Financial Society

🏆 AaA 2017 PrMMAE

Awarded for the work at Modest / Paypal

👥 VOLUNTEER

Pardee RAND Graduate School

2020 – Present

Board of Governors

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

2020 – Present

Negaunee Music Institute Board Member

Royal United Services Institute

2017 – Present

Advisory Board

Cornell College

2016 – 2024

Board of Trustees Member

📍 CONTACT



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🏛️ EDUCATION

1997 2001

Cornell College

🎓 Bachelor of Arts

Computer Science and Philosophy

SKILLS

Startup Executive

Accomplished Startup exec with over two decades of experience

Networking

Very broad and diverse network

Fundraising

Raised millions of dollars for various companies

Leadership

Managed teams from 1 to 100s of people (hard)

Product Leadership

Built products from zero to millions of users

Technology Leadership

Very technical ;)

INTERESTS

Hacking

Hardware

Software

Programming

Python

Go

Javascript

Photography

Film

Digital

Travel

Music

Hip-Hop

Classical

Hyperpop

Metal

Reading

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Non-Fiction

Travel