

## **RICHARD (“RICK”) BALLARD**

Oakville, Ontario, Canada

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/richardballard/>

<https://github.com/rickballard/Civism>

<https://rickpublic.substack.com/>

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Alignerr Recruiting Team

I lead CoCivism, an open, consent-first framework for AI-enabled governance. My daily workflow depends on ChatGPT for planning, drafting, and CI/DevOps automation. I am applying to collaborate with Alignerr because I already convert disagreements with ChatGPT into structured, reproducible error reports. I want to channel that discipline into your pipeline so measurable defects are isolated from prompt noise and preference disputes.

What I bring: (1) a reproducible-first method (verbatim prompt/response capture, model/mode/tool stamps, and small counterfactual deltas), (2) a practical taxonomy for failure modes (f actuality drift, reasoning gaps, tool-use failures, safety miss-classifications, and UX friction), and (3) lightweight tooling—PowerShell ONEBLOCK scripts, a 10-second CI watcher, and a Matrix-based status relay—to keep evidence bundles tight and audit-able.

Proposed next step: a short pilot mapping my “DeltaTrack” disagreement log to your issue schema. Success criteria: clear repro steps, then-vs-now comparisons across model snapshots, and precise labels for triage. I commit to neutral, policy-aware reporting, to using sanitized prompts where needed, and to keeping CoCivism independent and non-adversarial. If any conflict arises, I will prioritize project integrity and disclose promptly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Resume — Rick Ballard

### **Summary**

Founder-level builder at the intersection of AI governance and practical DevOps. Created CoCivism—an open, consent-first digital governance framework—and the supporting toolchain (CoCache, CoCivBus, GIBindex). Heavy ChatGPT power user with focus on prompt design, reproducible disagreement capture, and regression-style bug reporting. Seeking to partner with Alignerr to turn structured disagreements into high-signal, model-improving error reports.

### **Core Competencies**

LLM Evaluation & Red-Teaming — prompt/test design; failure-mode taxonomy; regression tracking; delta logging; reproducibility.

Governance & Safety — consent-by-default patterns; decision recording; transparent review trails; lightweight community standards.

DevOps & Tooling — PowerShell 7; Git/GitHub CLI; GitHub Actions/Pages; Matrix automation; CI dashboards; repo hygiene.

Documentation & Onboarding — contributor playbooks; ONEBLOCK paste-safe instructions; clear “DO” vs “Education” separation.

Product Strategy — early-stage scoping; micro-MVPs; outreach experiments; quality-to-revenue alignment.

## Experience

### **CoCivium — Founder & Steward (2024–Present)**

Designed and published an open-source digital-governance framework emphasizing “consent before coercion.”

Led multi-repo migration and hardening: CoCivium (core), CoCache (ops sidecar), GIBindex (symbol registry), Civium (archive).

Implemented branch protection, PR templates, GitHub Actions Pages, and PR preview flows.

Built “CoCivBus” (Matrix status relay) and “Watch-Checks” (terminal GitHub Actions watcher) to cut context switching.

Established contributor workflow: ONEBLOCK PowerShell scripts with paste-safe RUN blocks; separated “DO” vs “Education.”

Maintained “DeltaTrack” inference log tagging factuality drift, instruction-following gaps, safety misclassification, and tool-use failures.

### **GroupBuild — Interim CEO (pro bono) (2025–Present)**

Volunteer leadership for a policy-discussion social platform; clarified positioning, scope, and governance constraints.

Advised on consentful data practices and evidence-backed discourse mechanics.

### **INSEED LLC — Principal Consultant (Ongoing)**

Advises on AI-governance-aligned product strategy and rapid, low-overhead MVPs.

Translates governance constraints into developer-friendly CI and documentation pipelines.

### **Maxxian — VP, Business Development (historical)**

Business development for cable/TV traffic analytics; contributed to enterprise deals with Comcast and Rogers.

### **Redline — Director, Solutions Marketing (historical)**

Software developer for wireless e-commerce; later led Sales/Marketing department; delivered marketing strategy.

## Education

Coventry University — Combined Engineering, telecoms major

University of Southampton — MBA, Management Information Systems

Sheridan College — Post-Grad Multimedia S/W Dev, Under-Grad Computer Science

## Volunteering

Habitat for Humanity ReStore — Store Volunteer (Building Supplies) — 2021–Present

Oakville, Halton Food Bank — Foodbank Volunteer — 2023–Present

## Publications

“What Broke America — And How We Fix It” (Substack: Jul 1, 2025)

RickPublic (Substack) — Ongoing essays on democracy, governance, and AI/LLM issues

### Selected Systems & Artifacts

CoCivium (core framework): constitutional structure; contributor onboarding; issue/PR hygiene; governance templates.

CoCache (ops memory): cross-repo sidecar notes; session checkpoints; ONEBLOCK scripts; CI watchers.

GIBindex (symbol registry): emerging glossary/registry for consistent terms and artifacts.

CoCivBus (Matrix relay): minimal JSONL heartbeat mirroring between parallel sessions.

Watch-Checks (PS7): terminal dashboard refreshing ~10s while CI is active; avoids web context switching.

### LLM Error-Tracking Practices (Alignerr-Relevant)

Disagreement Logging — capture verbatim prompts/responses; categorize failures (factuality, reasoning, tools, safety, UX); timestamp and version.

Reproducibility — record exact model/mode/tool settings, input variants, and environment notes to reproduce across sessions.

Minimal Counterfactuals — craft small, controlled prompt deltas to isolate regressions vs noise.

Evidence Bundles — side-by-side “then vs now” comparisons; attach CLI/PowerShell traces and link to CI artifacts where relevant.

Responsible Escalation — neutral language; policy-aware framing; user-safety-aware red-team patterns.

### Skills

PowerShell 7; Git/GitHub CLI; GitHub Actions/Pages; Windows 10/11; Matrix.org automation.

Wireless & Mobile Devices (historic domain expertise with endorsements on LinkedIn).

Prompt Engineering; LLM evaluation; structured disagreement capture; regression testing.

### Advisory — CoCivium Non-Detriment Clause

This document frames Alignerr participation as quality-improvement of general-purpose LLMs. I avoid proprietary disclosures and keep CoCivium independent, consent-first, and non-adversarial. Any conflict will be raised and resolved in favor of project integrity.

— Updated: 2025-08-22