

# Russell Blickhan

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## Experience

<b>Descript</b>	Aug 2025 – Present
<i>Senior Software Engineer</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In Descript's LLM-powered video editor agent, single-handedly implemented the Creative Brief planning mode and led three-engineer initiative to add save-and-share template prompts flow</li><li>Implemented Descript's new in-app homepage, which led to a 5% stat-sig increase in daily active users</li><li>Ran pricing experimentation in collaboration with product, design, marketing, support, finance, and another engineering team, resulting in a major shift in company pricing strategy</li><li>Served as go-to engineer for questions about Descript's integration with Braze, our main in-app marketing tool</li></ul>	
<b>Asana</b>	Jul 2019 – Jun 2025
<i>Senior Software Engineer</i>	Jan 2023 – Jun 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Owned Smart Status, one of Asana's first LLM-powered features, working across frontend, backend, and prompt engineering; led two other engineers and a product manager to prototype cutting-edge RAG techniques</li><li>Led a team of three to add Chrome-style tabbed interface to Asana's Electron/React-based Desktop app</li><li>Embedded on a partner team to unblock a major initiative to bring Gantt views to the webapp; recognized by team's manager as a model and mentor for other engineers due to high velocity</li></ul>	
<b>Software Engineer</b>	Jul 2019 – Jan 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Worked across frontend (React), backend (TypeScript/Scala), and mobile (iOS/Android) to build features like:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“Recently online” indicators in profile pictures</li><li>Unread task indicators in My Tasks</li><li>Reorganized My Tasks view with new “group by due dates” feature</li><li>Starred notifications in inbox</li></ul></li><li>Mentored two interns, both of whom accepted return offers, and an apprentice</li><li>Introduced monthly tech talks to an organization of 30 engineers</li><li>Managed mobile on-call and release processes</li></ul>	
<b>AWS Snowmobile   Software Engineer Intern</b>	May – Aug 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented metrics aggregation pipeline via AWS Kinesis, with automated deployment</li></ul>	
<b>AWS Thinkbox   Software Engineer Intern</b>	May – Aug 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented various computer graphics algorithms in C++ for experimental point cloud mesher</li></ul>	
<b>T2 Systems   Embedded Software Engineer Intern</b>	Sep 2016 – May 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented UI and business logic in C++ for parking meter payment software rewrite</li></ul>	

## Education

<b>University of British Columbia</b>	2014 – 2019
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science & Mathematics	