Jerry D. Boonstra

Forward Deployed / Applied AI Engineer

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SUMMARY

Forward-deployed AI engineer with nearly three decades shipping production systems and three years building LLM products end to end. Works close to the customer: embedded with client teams as a consulting architect, ran compute inside customers' own AWS accounts, and led a 30-person technology organization as CTO. Builds LLM pipelines and agents in Python and TypeScript on AWS, with the evaluation, cost, and approval controls that make them dependable. Builds with Claude Code every day, and writes the tooling and articles that help other engineers do the same.

CORE SKILLS

LLM Systems & Agents: Multi-pass LLM pipelines, LangChain (LCEL chains, Pydantic output parsers, callbacks), parallel prompt scheduling, graphs of agents and critic agents, OpenAI Assistants API, structured output against typed schemas, human-in-the-loop approval

Evaluation & Controls: LLM-as-judge scoring, integration tests over real model calls, adversarial and held-out test sets, falsification against baselines, per-step token and cost accounting, prompt versioning, deterministic limits a model cannot override

AI-Forward Engineering: Claude Code daily (subagents, skills, hooks; author of three plugins, one open source), Codex, Cursor, Ollama, loop engineering, verifier agents

Cloud, Delivery & Languages: AWS Lambda, API Gateway, Cognito, ECS/Fargate, STS, S3, DynamoDB, RDS PostgreSQL, EventBridge, CloudWatch, AWS CDK, Docker, GCP Dataflow and Pub/Sub; Python, TypeScript, SQL, Java; REST APIs for web, mobile, TV, and OTT clients

EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder / CTO - CalmTrader

Los Angeles, CA | May-Dec 2025; Jul 2026-Present

Active private R&D

- Led the architecture and wrote most of the code for an agentic trading system on Python and serverless AWS (Lambda, EventBridge, PostgreSQL). It connected TradingView and Pine Script strategies to simulated and live Tradovate futures execution, with position reconciliation, duplicate-signal protection, P&L limits, and account pauses enforced in deterministic code.
- Built a graph-of-agents pipeline that turned about 100 trading strategies into executable rules, backtested them, and ran falsification and statistical tests against coin-flip baselines before any result reached a user.
- Returned after a six-month parenting break to co-lead the next generation: an agentic research environment with cited evidence, schema-validated policy, and specialized critic agents that make the idea-to-backtest loop auditable.

Co-Founder / Product & AI Engineer - ResumeFactory.ai

Los Angeles, CA | 2024-Jan 2026

Sunset product

- Built nearly all of the backend of an LLM resume-tailoring platform used by hundreds of people: Python services on AWS Lambda, API Gateway, Cognito, and RDS PostgreSQL, deployed with AWS CDK.
- Orchestrated the multi-pass LLM workflow with LangChain and a scheduler of my own that ran independent prompt steps in parallel: gap analysis against the job, 0-100 match scoring by category, questions for missing evidence, and constrained edits the user approved before they applied.
- Grounded every model output in typed, versioned JSON validated against Pydantic schemas, with a retry on validation failure, and rendered ATS-readable PDFs from LaTeX in a Docker container-image Lambda.
- Built the evaluation and cost instrumentation: an LLM judge that rated every applied edit, integration tests against real model calls, end-to-end runs of ten full tailorings, per-step token and cost accounting, and prompt templates versioned by hash.

Co-Founder / CTO - ObexMetrics, Inc.

Los Angeles, CA | Nov 2023-Apr 2025

Completed product / active architectural reference

- Built a multi-user exploratory-data-analysis assistant on the OpenAI Assistants API, TypeScript and Python services, AWS Lambda, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, and WebSockets, tying conversations and feedback to the customer's own data artifacts.
- Implemented customer-cloud execution through cross-account AWS roles and STS temporary credentials, launching ECS/Fargate workloads inside customer accounts so compute, data boundaries, and cost stayed under customer control.
- Worked hands-on across the interface and infrastructure of a platform for persistent datasets, experiments, runs, lineage, and parallel forecasting workflows, and implemented it with the development team.

Independent - Claude Code tooling

2026-Present

Open source and private

- Built neckbeard, an open-source Claude Code plugin that reads what another plugin would inject into every session, and often every subagent, before you install it, then sorts each rule against the ones already in force. Published fourteen rounds of adversarial testing and keeps a sealed, held-out test set to check the model's judgment.
- Built delegation, a private plugin for building software with independent verification: nine agents, eight hooks, and a verifier agent that holds a veto over marking work done. Writes on AI-forward engineering, including "Vibe Coding, One Year Later".

Co-Founder / Head of Engineering - Vurbl Media

Los Angeles, CA | Jan 2020-Jul 2021

Audio publishing and streaming platform

- Architected the platform and led the team building its content library and delivery systems, writing the large majority of the audio ingestion pipeline hands-on: Python and Flask behind gunicorn, a Celery work queue, PostgreSQL and Redis, containerized on GCP.

Software Architect - Product N

Los Angeles, CA | Jul 2018-Jan 2020

Consulting

- Embedded with client teams, including Talespin and Girlgaze, to stabilize in-flight systems, plan their architecture, and advise on product strategy, team management, and infrastructure.

Chief Technology Officer - Jukin Media

Culver City, CA | Mar 2014-Mar 2018

User-generated media company

- Turned existing product-management workflows into a modern content-management and delivery platform for a global user-generated-content library, making the build-versus-buy decisions and leading implementation.
- Architected the business-intelligence and analytics stack: Amazon Redshift as the columnar warehouse over an S3 data lake, AWS Data Pipeline for scheduled loads, and QuickSight dashboards serving licensing, content, and operations decisions. Built the video-library metadata platform for asset and rights ingestion, storage, and delivery, with Elasticsearch for search across the library.

Principal Software Engineer - Frequency Networks, Inc.

Los Angeles, CA | Jul 2011-Mar 2014

Video aggregation and distribution

- Led DevOps implementation and API development for the channel-creation platform and engineered backend systems supporting global content distribution across devices.

Senior Technical Manager - AOL

New York, NY | May 2009-Jan 2010

AOL Music and SHOUTcast

- Led software-engineering teams and directed technical strategy and implementation for two high-traffic digital-audio properties.

Senior Engineer / Principal Engineer / Director - CNET

San Francisco, CA | May 1997-May 2008

Eleven-year builder-to-director progression

- Built publishing tools for editorial and production teams, then architected an XML-based content workflow that replaced dozens - sometimes roughly a hundred - sequential UI steps with document editing, one upload, and a validation loop. Teams experienced the new flow as roughly an order of magnitude faster in practice.
- Progressed to site and platform leadership for Shopper.com, Reviews.cnet.com, News.com, and Download.com, directing engineering teams and architecture for high-traffic consumer properties.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering - University of Alberta