

Kevin Smith

INDEPENDENT FULL-STACK ENGINEER

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SUMMARY

- TypeScript/Node, Postgres, Python, WordPress. Agent-driven delivery with guardrails, cost measurement and output verification.
- 24 years building for high-traffic publishing and financial services platforms (TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, Django, WordPress).
- Director-level experience, chose the IC path. Led teams of up to 16, built systems that generated \$100M+ in revenue.
- Independent consultancy shipping 20+ production web applications, among them whoami, reductio, priors, mileweave, verbatim and incognita (centricle.com).

EXPERIENCE

Full-Stack Engineer

May 2025 – Present

Centricle · Remote

Independent web development consultancy, est. 2023. Agent-driven, not agent-trusted: guardrail hooks block the known failure modes before they land, every run is metered, and output is verified against its source before it ships.

Contract engagement: Stock chart automation tool for a financial publishing group. React 19 + TypeScript panel running inside Adobe Illustrator (CEP) that renders charts as SVG and places them as editable vector art through ExtendScript, with a Node/Express API (structured extraction via the OpenAI API) and Python parsing service. Built style templates with per-chart overrides stored as diffs, undo/redo and a signed, notarized macOS installer. Sole engineer across 13 releases in 10 weeks, behind a release gate that checks the shipping artifact. Took over production operations on AWS.

(Jun 2026 – Present)

Contract engagement: Custom WordPress development for 247wallst.com (Flywheel Publishing), a high-traffic financial news site. Primary developer on the theme rebuild (464 of 930 commits): theme architecture, versioned live-blog templates, real-time stock chart integration, Core Web Vitals and accessibility work. (May – Nov 2025)

Products: 20+ production web applications as sole developer. Full-stack apps with auth, payments (Stripe) and Postgres (Neon): database-backed apps migrated to Neon in 2026 with hand-rolled auth and transactional email. Content platforms with SEO architecture (Astro, TypeScript). Browser extensions.

whoami.fyi Search collision detector. Free preview, \$3 Claude-run audit behind Stripe checkout.

priors Open experiment on model defaults at centricle.com/curios/priors. Four Claude models, 18 tasks, 6,400 trials.

verbatim.fyi Primary-source data explorer. Five public datasets, one interface, zero editorial.

thehelm.fyi Open-source fleet dashboard. Express, EJS, HTMX. MIT, with a live demo.

reductio.us Assessments graded against primary sources. Seven modules, 471 citations verified at the evidence level.

mileweave.us Road trip planner in production. Auth, Stripe subscription, Postgres, Claude API.

incognita Shared world that exists only while someone is looking. Node, WebSockets, scale-to-zero Fly machine, no database.

invoisaurus Open-source invoice generator on github.com/centricle, release 2.2.0. Web UI in, PDF out.

Full Stack Engineer, Marketing

Oct 2023 – May 2025

Muck Rack · Remote

Marketing engineering for a SaaS PR platform. Owned the public-facing marketing site and lead generation systems on Wagtail CMS (Django), shipping landing pages, content templates and lead capture workflows.

Django, Python, Wagtail, JavaScript, CSS

The Motley Fool

Mar 2006 – May 2023

17 years · Alexandria, VA (later Remote)

Full Stack Developer, Customer Acquisition

Jun 2021 – May 2023

Site-wide redesign on the Fool's custom Wagtail CMS: SEO, page speed, A/B testing and lead generation. Started as a two-person dev team; results led to doubling the engineering investment.

Full Stack Developer, Affiliate Marketing: The Blueprint

May 2019 – Jun 2021

Built the front-end architecture for an internal startup producing business software reviews. Custom Wagtail components, lead generation and an internal ad system with measurable outcomes – decisions driven by data, not gut. Two-developer team.

Mobile Developer, Customer Acquisition

Nov 2018 – May 2019

Solo developer on a React Native + Expo app for the free website's news feed and stock quotes.

Marketing Engineer, Lead Generation: Motley Fool Wealth Management

Jun 2016 – Nov 2018

Built an entire marketing technology stack from scratch for a separately regulated (SEC) financial division. Two-person team operating with startup autonomy inside an established company. Compliance-aware development in a regulated environment.

Marketing Engineer, Upsell/Cross-sell

Apr 2015 – Jun 2016

Developed commerce and order page front-ends against .NET APIs, running dozens of user-facing A/B tests to optimize conversion. Part of a team of six to eight that generated \$100M+ in revenue over two years.

Director, User Interface

Jan 2011 – Apr 2015

Led 16 front-end developers and UX designers responsible for all company digital properties. Established development standards, code review practices and cross-team coordination.

Director, Front End Web Development

Mar 2006 – Jan 2011

Hired as the company’s first front-end web developer. Built the front-end development practice from zero: hiring, standards, tooling and team culture. Grew the team over five years into a department.

Earlier Experience

2000 – 2006

Freelance and contract web development, including accessible GIS templates for a FEMA flood mapping application.

SKILLS

LANGUAGES	TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, PHP, SQL, HTML, CSS
FRAMEWORKS	Node/Express, React, React Native, Next.js, Astro, Django, Wagtail, WordPress, Tailwind
PLATFORMS	Postgres/Neon, AWS, Stripe, Netlify, Vite, Git, Linux/Unix, Claude Code, Claude API
DISCIPLINES	Agent-driven delivery, output verification, team leadership, SEO, A/B testing, lead generation, responsive design, CI/CD, accessibility, performance optimization

EDUCATION

Salisbury University

BA, Design / Photography