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.

mileweave.us AI-powered road trip planner. Auth, Stripe subscription, Postgres, Claude API powering the chatbot planning tool.

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 – 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