

20+

YEARS SHIPPING

200+

PROJECTS DELIVERED

20M+

USERS SERVED

2

EXITS

Senior enough to own the architecture, still in the pull requests. I embed with SaaS teams, early-stage to scale-up, as the engineering lead who owns delivery. Two decades shipping, two CTO roles, one studio sold. Remote from GMT+2, full EU and US East overlap.

EXPERIENCE

ROLE & ORGANISATION	PERIOD
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Founder

Jan 2024 – Present

Underwulf · Cape Town · Remote

- Founded a custom software studio: MVPs, web platforms, API integrations, and LLM features.
- Lead every engagement personally as the senior engineer, from architecture to production code.

Co-founder

Sep 2022 – Present

Machine Republic · London · Remote

- Co-founded a London consultancy building custom software and LLM features for product teams.
- Set architecture and CI/CD standards, mentored the engineers, tied delivery to client ROI.

Founder · Lead Architect

Mar 2020 – Present

Indiemaker · Remote

- Built and scaled the largest marketplace for buying and selling side projects and micro-SaaS.
- Led the Laravel to Rails migration. 1,000+ new makers a month at 99.9% uptime.

Senior Engineer & Solutions Architect · CTO (2021–22)

Oct 2020 – Sep 2022

Code Maven · Cape Town · Hybrid

- Led architecture and full-stack delivery for Pepkor NexTech, one of Africa's largest retailers.
- Stepped up as CTO through the acquisition, owning strategy and stakeholder relationships.
- Ran the cloud migration and CI/CD across a Java, Go, Python, PHP, and JavaScript stack.

CTO & Co-founder

Dec 2018 – Mar 2021

MyPerks · Cape Town

- Co-founded a B2B perks and rewards platform and took it to acquisition as CTO.
- Built the Flutter apps and Rails backend: payments, Google Cloud Vision, infrastructure.

EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Co-founder & Senior Engineer

Jul 2010 – Oct 2019

Wixel · Stellenbosch · Remote

- Co-founded a profitable studio, sold in 2019. 200+ projects across fintech, gaming, and big data.
- Architected BLU Loyalty, an enterprise platform serving 9M users for a major MENA retail group.
- Won a Frost & Sullivan Excellence Award.

Senior Full-Stack Engineer

Jan 2008 – Sep 2010

Yola.com · Remote

- Early engineer at one of the first no-code website builders, from 10K to 11M users.
- Built the core PHP framework, payment system, and public APIs.

PRODUCTS & OPEN SOURCE

Craaft	Founder · Kanban SaaS for teams that plan and ship without bloat.	craaft.io
Ecko	Creator · Rust-based programming language with AI as a primitive.	ecko.sh
Payments Playbook	Author · Book on building payment systems that survive real customers.	payments-playbook.com
Nitro	Creator · Python static site generator, and it builds sswn.dev.	nitro.sh
DesignClipboard	Creator · One-click Chrome extension for colours, fonts, and styles.	Chrome Web Store
Open source	GUMP (thousands of sites) · Amethyst · Nitro CLI · Nitro UI	github.com/sn

CAPABILITIES

- Engineering leadership and delivery
- Production AI: RAG, agents, and evals
- AI coding tool rollout across teams
- Architecture that survives 10x growth
- Cloud infrastructure and reliability
- SOC 2 readiness and security review
- Technical due diligence and code audits
- Incremental legacy modernisation

STACK & CREDENTIALS

LANGUAGES	Python · TypeScript · Go · Rust · Ruby · Java · JavaScript · PHP
PLATFORM	Rails · Django · FastAPI · Flutter · PostgreSQL · Redis · AWS · GCP · Stripe
CERTIFIED	Google Cloud Professional Cloud Architect (2025) · AWS Solutions Architect (2017)

“At Wixel we always joked that we do the impossible. Much of that was possible because Sean was our CTO.”

Beverley Merriman · CEO, Wixel

Available for embedded leadership, contract engagements, and senior roles.
Contract work starts with a two-week sprint. If I'm not adding value, we stop.
References available on request.

sean@sswn.dev