

# Chad Bartley

Cleveland, OH (remote) · bartlec04@gmail.com · linkedin.com/in/chad-k-bartley · github.com/chadbartley

Senior full-stack engineer, ~10 years across fintech, healthtech, commerce, and adtech. Builds products end to end — requirements through architecture to launch — most recently production AI systems (agent runtimes, RAG, LLM tooling) in Rust, Python, and TypeScript. Ex-Meta; two-time founder (one YC W24). Experienced with agile delivery, code review, and cross-team technical leadership; mentors engineers and ramps fast in unfamiliar domains.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Ward (getward.ai) — Co-Founder & CPO

Oct 2025 – Present

*Enterprise data platform: ask questions of company data, with an audit trail on every AI answer.*

- Built the agent runtime, analytics layer, and AI BI tooling in Rust and React; in production with ~20 paying SMB customers, deployed cloud or on-prem.
- Designed the multi-tenant security model — Cedar policy enforcement, extensible OAuth, audit logging — and led the platform through SOC 2.
- Landed two paying enterprise customers, including a \$400M, 850-store grocery chain that converted a 12-week POC into a one-year retainer on production SAP S/4HANA data.
- Own engineering direction as CPO: roadmap, delivery cadence, and code review across the codebase.

### HyperMarket — Senior Full-Stack Engineer (contract; part-time from Oct 2025)

Feb 2025 – Jan 2026

*Digital-commerce platform for creators; two-person engineering team.*

- Cut monthly AWS spend ~70% by collapsing three full environments to test + production and consolidating serving onto a single EC2.
- Re-platformed the core REST API from a Django monolith to Rust (Axum/Tokio); migrated auth to AWS Cognito.
- Built AI onboarding tooling (LangChain/LangGraph, embeddings, vector search) that cut brand onboarding from hours to minutes; onboarded ~20 brands.
- Shipped the rebuilt commerce product in three months.

### Fern (YC W24) — Co-Founder & Principal Engineer

Oct 2023 – May 2024

*Chargeback automation for banks. Y Combinator W24.*

- Automated the partner bank's manual chargeback process end to end: a Rust pipeline collecting evidence from Stripe, Adyen, and Shopify into review-ready packets.
- Architected the async platform ingesting and normalizing transactions across three payment processors.
- Won ~10 live, high-value disputes for a bank that had written off chargebacks entirely.

### Solv Healthcare — Senior Software Engineer

Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

*Healthtech.*

- Migrated event processing off the core CRUD application onto an isolated, auto-scaling Celery platform (Docker, Kubernetes).
- Enabled real-time, event-driven payment processing at hundreds of thousands of operations per minute, replacing polling.

## Meta — Senior Business Engineer, Marketplace

Feb 2021 – Jul 2023

- Led full-stack development and launch of Local Delivery on Marketplace, including the DoorDash partnership (covered by TechCrunch).
- Scaled Local Delivery from MVP to millions of daily impressions and ~10K monthly transactions (React, GraphQL, REST APIs, webhooks).
- Built the Ratings & Reviews backend ingesting tens of millions of product reviews daily from five external platforms, surfaced to millions of users (Python).
- Ran A/B tests showing image-backed, named-reviewer reviews decisively outperformed; redirected review sourcing accordingly.
- As Better Engineering Champion, worked with senior leadership to restructure documentation and product vetting across a 30+ person org — faster approvals, lower on-call load.

## Splash Financial — Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2020 – Feb 2021

*Fintech — student-loan refinancing.*

- Rebuilt the document Upload Center end to end on AWS microservices (Lambda, SNS, SQS); conversion rose ~30% and held, adding ~\$50K in monthly recurring revenue.
- Mentored and onboarded engineers; led code reviews and wrote the team's onboarding and process documentation.

## Extreme Reach — Software Engineer, promoted to Senior Software Engineer

Oct 2016 – Jan 2020

*Adtech. Promoted junior to senior in two years.*

- Led the Angular frontend rebuild of AdBridge for Sellers, owning technical planning across multiple teams; the product hit a \$2M annual run rate in its first month.
- Introduced an ORM architecture to the C#/NET backend and drove adoption across the full engineering org, improving API consistency.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

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- **Cleargate** (2024–2025) — LLM gateway for production AI systems: declarative rules engine for cost control, PII redaction, and multi-provider routing with real-time budget enforcement. Rust, React, TypeScript.
- **Federal Insights RAG** (2024–2025) — searchable index of the federal congressional record (~20GB): scrape, transform, embed, and query pipeline on minimal hardware. Rust, React, Python.
- **AI-Release-Bot** (2024, open source) — GitHub Action on the GitHub Marketplace that turns a software release into a ready-to-publish blog post.
- **SnyperTV** (2021–2023) — challenge platform for game streamers, built and run solo: processed ~\$180K in donations, verified against real-time in-game events. Java/Spring Boot, Python, React, Postgres, Redis, RabbitMQ, Kubernetes.

## SKILLS

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**Languages:** Rust, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, C#, Java, SQL

**Frontend:** React, Angular, Node.js

**Backend & APIs:** Axum/Tokio, Django, Spring Boot, .NET, GraphQL, REST APIs, microservices, event-driven architecture

**AI/ML:** LLM integration, agent systems, RAG, embeddings, vector search, LangChain/LangGraph

**Data:** PostgreSQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ

**Cloud & DevOps:** AWS (EC2, Lambda, SQS, SNS, Cognito), Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, GitHub Actions, CI/CD

**Practices:** Agile delivery, code review, test-driven development, technical mentorship, SOC 2 compliance

## EDUCATION

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**Cleveland State University** — B.S. Computer Science · B.A. Economics