

Austin French

Senior Product Engineer · Forward-Deployed

New York, NY · austindanielfrench@gmail.com · austn.net · github.com/frogr · linkedin.com/in/austindanielfrench

SUMMARY

I've spent eight years building software and then standing next to the people using it, from a Super Bowl check-in line to a client's conference room. Self-taught, Rails-first, increasingly TypeScript and applied AI: took a contractor-facing assistant from idea to ~5,000 requests/day at CompanyCam, led three simultaneous client engagements at Tenex, and was called back to Backlit every event season for seven years. Off the clock, built and ran nine self-hosted AI tools on my own GPU at austn.net.

EXPERIENCE

Tenex · Senior Forward Deployed Engineer

Mar 2026 – Jun 2026 · New York, NY

Role eliminated in company-wide restructuring

AI consultancy embedding engineers directly with clients. Lead engineer on three simultaneous engagements, from technical discovery through architecture, delivery, and executive demos.

- **Built retail placement analytics across 1,500+ stores** and several million historical sales records (TypeScript/Next.js), with gondola-level heatmaps that let account execs compare store, field vs. non-field, and placement performance. In use by the client; on a held-out historical placement change, the model matched the observed direction of sales movement for 96% of 300+ SKUs.
- **Deployed a TypeScript/Next.js mobile scheduling system** that replaced WhatsApp-based availability collection and manual schedule assembly, generating hundreds of monthly shifts for 120 representatives across 425 stores
- **Built an OCR and two-stage LLM pipeline** (Google Document AI + LLM extraction) processing hundreds of printed and handwritten forms weekly, enabling the client to wind down an outsourced data-entry workflow; wrote evals and autonomy gates so over half of documents ran without human review
- **Built internal tooling used across engagements:** a parallel Claude Code session orchestrator, Slack-to-PR bug automation, and git provenance tracking

Backlit · Full Stack / Forward Deployed Engineer

Oct 2018 – Feb 2026 · Remote + on-site

Recurring seasonal contract for seven years, concurrent with the full-time roles below

Talent logistics for major live productions: onboarding, scheduling, payments, and compliance for 10,000+ performers across the Super Bowl, Oscars, and Grammys.

- **Sole on-site engineer at Super Bowl LX:** ran talent check-in on the platform, caught workflow friction live, and turned operational needs into same-day technical decisions
- **Cut page loads from 10+ seconds to under 400ms** by rewriting SQL and ActiveRecord usage, reducing 500+ queries per page to ~10, under live-event deadlines
- **Paid 100% of the halftime show's non-union performers** through the platform via Zeal; integrated Twilio, Yardstik background checks, and NFL SEMS APIs for onboarding and event compliance
- Processed \$2MM+ in donations for Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 2021 fundraiser (Node.js, Express, Stripe)

CompanyCam · Backend Engineer, Workflows & Outputs

Nov 2023 – Aug 2025 · Remote

#1 photo documentation app in construction, used by 140,000+ contractors.

- **Led the Pages AI Assistant from ideation to production:** contractors speak or type on a job site and get finished documentation instantly. Scaled to ~5,000 requests/day; customers reported saving 2–5 hours per week
- **Built shared Rails abstractions on top of RubyLLM** that were adopted across the product suite; shipped voice commands, context-aware invoice generation, and tool-calling workflows on Anthropic, OpenAI, and Groq
- Architected Share Link (Rails, React/TypeScript) so users could securely share any asset with clients and payers off-platform
- Cut PDF export size 10x with streaming, compression, and Sidekiq/S3 async processing for 10,000+ daily exports

CoverMyMeds · Software Engineer, Launch team

Jul 2021 – Oct 2023 · Remote

Industry standard for electronic prior authorization, connected to 950,000+ providers, 50,000+ pharmacies, and nearly every US health plan.

- **Launched nine pharmaceutical brands representing \$10M+ ARR**, expanding supported platform coverage by 40%
- **Built Configuration Station** (Rails, React, PostgreSQL), reducing technical brand onboarding from months to hours and enabling nontechnical staff to configure launches without engineering
- Technical lead for the Spravato, Renflexis, and Ontruzant launches, owning implementation planning and coordination across engineering and launch stakeholders
- Created VEST, a technical-debt prioritization framework adopted across engineering; mentored 5 developers, including transitioning a CSM into engineering

T2 Modus · Software Engineer

Jul 2019 – Sep 2020 · Remote

- Cut a daily pipeline processing 25,000+ customer records from six hours to 45 minutes through batch processing and database partitioning

PROJECTS

austn.net (Aug 2025 – Feb 2026) Built and ran a self-hosted suite of 9 AI tools (image generation, image-to-3D, voice cloning, stem separation, songwriting) on a Python/Flask backend, on personal GPU hardware tunneled via Tailscale to a DigitalOcean VPS; processed tens of thousands of inference jobs while publicly available.

Tinyrails (2025) Built a Rails-inspired MVC framework in Ruby and Rack to study framework internals, including convention-based routing, controller resolution, typo-aware errors, and a file-backed ORM.

SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: Ruby, Rails, TypeScript, JavaScript, React, Node.js, Python, SQL

Data & Infrastructure: PostgreSQL, Redis, Sidekiq, Docker, AWS, Heroku, GitHub Actions

Applied AI: OpenAI, Anthropic, and Groq APIs; RubyLLM; OCR/document extraction; tool-calling workflows; eval pipelines; autonomy gating; self-hosted inference