

SUMMARY

Startup-minded full-stack developer and founder with 5+ years of experience building scalable, mission-driven products using React, Node.js, Python, and Ruby. Former military linguist turned educator and entrepreneur. Highlights include contributions to the Avatar franchise at Lightstorm Entertainment, feature development at BuySellAds, and founding ventures like Cooked Nearby, Back Channel, and MEHKO.ai. Skilled at turning ideas into live products that solve real-world problems.

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Product Lead — Back Channel (Jan 2025 – Present, Los Angeles, CA)

- Launched a mission-driven short-form video app positioned as a U.S.-based alternative to TikTok, enhancing user privacy and engagement.
- Adapted and expanded a Flutter/Laravel template with Node.js + Docker, improving scalability.
- Defined governance framework (“10 Commandments”) emphasizing transparency and fairness.
- Led product launch, investor outreach, and \$1.5M seed fundraising effort.

Founder & Product Lead — MEHKO.ai / MEHKO.org (Jan 2024 – Present, Los Angeles, CA)

- Built MEHKO.ai, an AI-powered platform streamlining county permit applications for home-restaurant businesses (MEHKOs), using React, Python (FastAPI), Docker, and Cloudflare/Hetzner.
- Created MEHKO.org, a community hub for MEHKO legislation and entrepreneurs.
- Integrated PDF automation, AI-driven field extraction, and user-friendly workflows, enabling faster business launches.
- Led full-stack development, deployment, and outreach, positioning MEHKO as a recognized movement.

Special Needs Instructor — Swing / Kelly Education (Sep 2024 – Present, Hawthorne, CA)

- Supported students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms, implementing IEPs and adapting instruction.

Coding Tutor — AvanTutor.com (Jan 2018 – Present, Remote)

- Conducted 1,000+ tutoring sessions across Java, JavaScript, React, Node.js, and Python.
- Helped students improve by 30% and transition into tech careers.

Lead Instructor — General Assembly (Jun 2023 – Jul 2024, Bahrain)

- Led immersive bootcamp in JavaScript, Python, Django, SQL, React.
- Achieved 95% graduation and 94% student satisfaction rates.

Full Stack Developer — BuySellAds (Aug 2021 – Apr 2023, Remote)

- Shipped features with React/Redux and Ruby on Rails, improving engagement.
- Developed “Optimize” feature, increasing ad revenue and UX performance.

Backend Java Developer — Lightstorm Entertainment (Jul 2017 – Jan 2018, Manhattan Beach, CA)

- Built 15+ REST APIs powering Avatar’s digital asset backend.
- Maintained 99.9% uptime for 500k+ daily transactions.

Business Owner — Avan's Cellular Solutions (Jan 2013 – Jan 2015, Los Angeles, CA)

- Managed 3 stores and 10 staff, generating \$500K+ revenue.

DOD Linguist & Cultural Advisor — Mission Essential Personnel (Jan 2012 – Jan 2013, Afghanistan)

- Supported U.S. military operations with cultural and language expertise.

Business Owner — Valde Fitness (Jan 2010 – Jan 2012, Los Angeles, CA)

- Founded and operated boutique fitness studio.

Technical Intern (Java) — Lockheed Martin / Sandia National Labs (Jul 2006 – Jan 2010)

- Contributed to secure systems projects using Java.

PROJECTS

Cooked Nearby (iOS, Live) — React Native, Firebase, Stripe, Stream. Marketplace app for home chefs. [App Store]

Back Channel (iOS, Live) — Flutter frontend, Laravel backend. Ethical short-form video app. [App Store]

MEHKO.ai (Web, Live) — React + Python (FastAPI), Dockerized microservices. Hosted on Cloudflare + Hetzner. AI workflows for permit applications.

MEHKO.org (Web, Live) — Advocacy hub for MEHKO legislation. Community + resources site.

AvanAITutor.com (Web, Live) — AWS Lambda + OpenAI/Gemini, DynamoDB. AI tutoring platform for real-time coding support.

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico (Sep 2002 – Jun 2007)
B.S., Computer Science

SKILLS

JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, Java, Ruby, React, Node.js, Django, Ruby on Rails, AWS (Lambda, S3, API Gateway, DynamoDB, EC2, CloudFormation), Firebase, Docker, CI/CD, REST APIs, Microservices, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Git, Responsive Web Apps, Leadership, Mentorship, Communication.