

COLE BERMAN

Software Engineer

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SUMMARY

Full stack software engineer with four years of production experience in TypeScript and React, across customer-facing applications, Postgres-backed services, payment infrastructure, and authenticated integrations between separate companies. Founder and lead engineer of a live subscription platform where LLM agents, safety guardrails, versioned context management, and token cost tracking are part of the daily build loop.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: TypeScript 5.9, JavaScript (ES2024), Java, SQL, HTML5, CSS

Frontend: React 19, Next.js 15 (App Router, React Server Components, Server Actions), React Native, Redux, Tailwind CSS 4, Framer Motion, Chrome Extensions (Manifest V3)

Backend and Data: Node.js 20, Express, PostgreSQL, Supabase (Auth, Row-Level Security, Edge Functions, Storage), REST APIs, webhooks, Sequelize

AI and LLM: Claude and OpenAI APIs, agentic workflows, MCP server integrations, prompt and context engineering, retrieval over structured data, agent guardrail design, output evaluation, token and cost tracking

Platform and Practices: Stripe billing, JWE and JOSE token encryption, structured event logging, PostHog instrumentation and funnel analytics, AWS S3, Vercel, Jest, Git, Agile, Test-Driven Development

EXPERIENCE

Aardvark | Founder and Lead Software Engineer | joinaardvark.com Jun 2025 – Present

- Founded and built a creator affiliate platform end to end: a Next.js and React web app written in TypeScript, a Postgres and Supabase backend secured with row-level security, and a Chrome Manifest V3 browser extension, all running in production for paying subscribers.
- Designed and shipped a **bidirectional partner integration** with a separate company, covering encrypted JWE handoff tokens, shared-secret authenticated webhooks in both directions, idempotent signup callbacks, and structured event logging so both systems could reconcile the same user.
- Own the production Stripe billing pipeline, including checkout sessions, subscription lifecycle webhooks, and promotional pricing. Traced and fixed a revenue-affecting cancellation bug caused by permission-scoped writes failing silently, adding an explicit service-role boundary and webhook state synchronization.
- Built **reusable internal AI tooling**: custom agent skills that encode golden path patterns for the codebase and enforce hard safety guardrails such as no production pushes, no schema migrations, and no destructive database calls, plus blast radius review and independent diff verification against source control before any change ships.
- Apply LLM engineering practices daily: versioned context and memory documents for prompt and project state management, token and cost tracking on every agent workflow, evaluation of agent output before merge, and MCP server integrations that connect agents to product analytics, deployment, and data collection systems.

Pekin Insurance | Full Stack Software Engineer Mar 2023 – May 2025

- Founding engineer on **MyPI**, a ground-up rebuild of the company claims platform, building policyholder claims portals for auto, home, medical, and life insurance in React, TypeScript, and JavaScript against a Java REST API and PostgreSQL data layer, on a team of five engineers and two designers.
- Worked on a system holding sensitive records for tens of thousands of policyholders, partnering with the security team on data handling and access review for every feature that touched personally identifiable information.
- Built an **internal identity resolution tool** for claims agents that called a LexisNexis endpoint for verification data such as name, prior address, and the last four digits of a social security number, then scored each new registration and claim against roughly 5,000 to 10,000 existing records to flag likely duplicates even when a last name or address had changed.
- Worked with the infrastructure team to define the platform requirements for the application, including AWS S3 storage and the migration of legacy policy and claims data, mapping legacy records and validating parity ahead of cutover.
- Set up and maintained the development, test, and production environments for the project, and wrote Jest tests covering every component in the portal.
- Founding columnist for Digital Digest, the internal company newsletter, writing a recurring column that paired seasonal recipes with technical humor for engineering and business readers.

Freelance | Full Stack Developer Oct 2022 – Mar 2023

- Delivered full stack web applications for small-business clients, building React front ends over Express and Node APIs backed by PostgreSQL, and simplified back-end data access so owners could maintain their own content.

EDUCATION

Fullstack Academy, Software Engineering Immersive, Full Stack JavaScript Web Development

Sept 2022

University of Colorado Boulder, B.A., Political Science

May 2020