PATRICK ORTELL

VP Engineering | CTO | Technical Product Owner | AI/ML Leader

Fort Collins, CO (Remote-First) | 720-229-5528 | patrick.ortell@arus.io | linkedin.com/in/patrickortell | github.com/p5150j

---

SUMMARY

Engineering leader with 14 years of experience scaling products from zero to $50M ARR. Three successful exits. Built and led teams from 2 to 80+ across CTO, VP Engineering, and Technical Product Owner roles. Deep hands-on expertise in AI/ML (LLMs, MLOps, SageMaker, Langchain), blockchain infrastructure, and cloud-native architecture. Proven track record of 100% on-time delivery, 70% cost reductions through LLM automation, and shipping production AI products ahead of the market. Thrive in remote-first, distributed environments managing teams across 4+ time zones.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Scaled product from $0 to $50M ARR; grew engineering org from senior IC to VP level
- 3 successful acquisitions (biemedia, Pegcog/Techstars, and contributing roles)
- 100% on-time delivery across 8 consecutive quarters on a decentralized protocol (Rust, AWS, K8s)
- 70% support cost reduction via LLM automation (GPT-4, Langchain) at SpexAI
- Shipped the first AI chatbot in AgTech — a full year ahead of any competitor
- 85% reduction in production incidents through MLOps discipline and observability
- 60% MTTR reduction via Grafana/Prometheus observability framework

---

EXPERIENCE

Mentor | Techstars | Jun 2023 – Present
Boulder, CO (Part-Time)

- Lead mentor for early-stage companies on engineering architecture, product strategy, and technical hiring
- Advised on SOC2 compliance, DevOps, ML infrastructure, technical due diligence, and SDLC
- Helped founders build and scale high-functioning cross-functional engineering teams

Technical Product Manager | Project Liberty — Frequency Protocol | Nov 2022 – Nov 2025
Los Angeles, CA (Remote) | Decentralized social protocol

- Directed 11-person distributed team across 4 time zones building a Rust-based decentralized social protocol
- Achieved 100% on-time delivery across 8 consecutive quarters, shipping 4 major protocol releases
- Reduced mean time to recovery (MTTR) by 60% through Grafana/Prometheus observability framework
- Stack: Rust, TypeScript, Svelte, AWS, Kubernetes, Terraform, GraphQL

Machine Learning Engineer & Product Owner | SpexAI GmbH | Sep 2022 – Mar 2025
Germany (Remote) | Enterprise AI platform, AgTech

- Led MLOps and product strategy for enterprise AI platform serving agricultural customers
- Improved ML model performance by 30% through pipeline optimization

- Reduced support costs 70% by shipping LLM-powered automation (GPT-4, Langchain)
- Cut production incidents 85% through MLOps discipline (MLflow, monitoring, CI/CD)
- Shipped the first chatbot in AgTech — a year ahead of any competitor
- Stack: Python, AWS SageMaker, Kubernetes, Terraform, Langchain, MLflow

Vice President of Engineering | Choi Holdings | Sep 2021 – Jun 2022
Los Angeles (Remote)
- Managed distributed team of 18 engineers across 4 time zones
- Achieved 95% satisfaction rating in weekly 1:1s; built high-trust engineering culture
- Stack: Nest.js, TypeScript, Vue.js, Swift, Kotlin, Terraform, AWS, Kubernetes

Chief Technology Officer | TiLT | Jun 2020 – Mar 2021
- Led team of 7 engineers; owned technical roadmap and architecture decisions
- Reduced cloud costs 20% by migrating from Heroku to AWS
- Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, GraphQL, React, AWS

VP of Engineering | Radar | Apr 2018 – Jun 2020
Promoted from Senior Engineer → Director → VP
- Grew from IC to VP, managing 15 direct reports across blockchain trading infrastructure
- Shipped 4 technical strategies aligned with SEC compliance requirements
- Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, GraphQL, Vue.js, React, Python, Golang, Ethereum, Hyperledger, AWS, GCP

Chief Technology Officer | TurboTenant | Oct 2016 – Apr 2018
Fort Collins, CO
- Managed 9 direct reports; introduced 3 new technologies driving 25% operational efficiency improvement
- Stack: Node.js, React, Ruby, PostgreSQL, AWS

Senior Software Engineer → Director of R&D | CommercialTribe | Apr 2015 – Dec 2016
- Managed 12 engineers across 3 time zones; achieved 90% sprint completion rate
- Built WebRTC real-time video platform and React Native applications

Earlier: Software Engineer at Cadence & Cause • Product Owner at Levels Beyond • Developer at biemedia (acquired) • Engineer at Techstars/Pegcog (acquired) • Intern at Mozilla

---

TECHNICAL SKILLS

AI/ML: LLMs, GPT-4, Langchain, MLflow, AWS SageMaker, ML pipelines, MLOps, model optimization
Languages: Rust, Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, Golang, Ruby, Scala
Infrastructure: AWS, GCP, Kubernetes, Terraform, Docker, CI/CD, SOC2 compliance
Backend: Node.js, Nest.js, GraphQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Redis
Frontend: React, Vue.js, Svelte, React Native
Blockchain: Ethereum, Hyperledger, Substrate/Rust protocols, SEC-compliant trading systems
Leadership: Team scaling (2–80+), distributed teams, technical hiring, architecture review, product strategy

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

Metropolitan State College of Denver — Dual BSA, Technical Communications & Computer Science (2009–2013)

Certifications: Data Science on Google Cloud Platform • AWS End User Computing • Expert Scrum Master (ESMC) • Blockchain: Beyond the Basics