

# CORY R. KING

PRODUCT LEADER · AI-NATIVE SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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I'm a technical product manager and software engineer by trade who's been **turning ideas into results** for over 20 years. I solo-founded an AI fintech startup, **pair-programming with AI** to ship over **60,000 lines** of production code. At **Indeed**, I was the steward of over **250 million accounts** — improving platform resiliency, growing authenticated sessions by **118%**, and keeping jobseekers safe. Off the clock, I'm building a spinning LED display that paints cool generative art in mid-air and ripping custom-built racing drones through the mountains at 90mph. Wanna come fly with me?

## Selected Professional Experience

### Blue Taka

2024-Present

#### Founder & Technical Lead

- **Solo-built** a fintech platform through **AI pair programming** — **60,000+** lines of production code delivering **item-level spending visibility** no existing financial tool provides
- Built **MCP servers and AI operational tooling** for production — **natural language queries** against production systems, log investigation, and system monitoring
- Built **context engineering** into the workflow — writing architecture, conventions, and domain knowledge **for AI agents, not humans** — the layer that makes solo development at this scale work
- Built **LLM-powered categorization engine** with a custom taxonomy, **iteratively evaluating and refining** model outputs against real purchase data

### Costco Travel

2024-2025

#### Senior Product Owner (Contract)

- Brought in to **finish decade-long platform migration**, scaling team from **8 to 30+** across **three parallel workstreams** and **over 300 work items** to replace the core booking platform powering a **billion-dollar business**

### Indeed

2015-2022

#### Senior Technical Product Manager

- Indeed's **first engineer-to-PM transition** — built the Identity Platform team from scratch, owning critical-path auth infrastructure for **250M+ accounts**
- Grew authenticated users from **20% to 43%** by championing engineer-proposed initiatives and removing every blocker so they could ship
- Discovered **1 in 3 accounts** had credentials exposed in third-party breaches; designed and shipped **forced-reset flows** to prevent employer account takeovers
- Built **dual-sided instrumentation** exposing failures invisible to server-side monitoring alone, driving **P95 auth latency from 1000ms to 15ms**
- Led billing improvements for **\$500M+ enterprise business line**, shipping automated subscription upgrades generating **\$2.16M incremental ARR**

## Projects

### Spinning LED Art Display

Hand-built a spinning LED display that projects **generative art into thin air**, combining custom 3D-printed mechanics, **AI-computed rotor balancing**, and microsecond-precision real-time code — delivering **sub-degree angular resolution** at over **2000 RPM**

### Amateur Radio (N7CRK)

Made contacts on **all seven continents including Antarctica** from a downtown high-rise using makeshift HF antennas made from magnet wire dangling **90 feet down to the street**

## Foundational Engineering Experience

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Shipped production software across a variety of platforms, programming languages, and frameworks in roles spanning barcode generation libraries, e-commerce platforms, IoT infrastructure, and mobile healthcare apps

### Box Cat Industries

2014-2015

Freelance consulting across **healthcare software** and **hardware IoT** — built a mobile health app frontend in Angular and modernized a hardware startup's deployment to **automated CI/CD**

### Microsoft

2009-10, 1996

Summer intern on **pre-release Windows NT 4.0** — the release that brought the Windows 95 shell to NT; returned as contract developer building **deployment tooling** for **MSN** live site operations

### Photographica

2000-2012

Created and operated a community photo-journal with **tens of thousands of users** — evolved a GPL codebase into a custom **multi-tenant platform** with PostgreSQL and multiple independent sites

### Cozi

2010-2013

Wore every hat from **release manager** to datacenter ops — shipped features, racked **blade servers**, built **hybrid cloud infrastructure**, and kept a consumer platform running at **11M accounts** and **99.9% uptime**

### XLAN

2001-2009

**Founded** and operated a hosting company — colocated physical servers, wrote the control panel, and managed everything from network infrastructure and authentication to customer billing

### Azalea Software

1997-2003

Built **barcode generation libraries** and **Office add-ins** in C and VB, including a Crystal Reports plugin shipped in the product box — later returned to redesign the **flagship application** in **C#/WPF** with a modernized UI

## Volunteer Work

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### Capitol Hill Cooperative Preschool Treasurer

2022-23

Managed the responsible dissolution of a **70-year-old cooperative preschool** after post-COVID enrollment collapse — distributed **\$75K+ in funds and assets** including teacher severance and donations to other local cooperative preschools

## Education

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### University of Washington

Master of Business Administration, Foster School of Business

2011-2014

- Completed **evening program while working full-time**, applying coursework to real-world product and engineering challenges

Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication, College of Engineering

2001-2004

- Engineering degree with near-minor in Mathematics, specializing in **human-computer interaction**

## Technical Skills & Expertise

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### AI & Machine Learning

AI Agents, AI-Native Development (Claude Code, Cursor), Computer Vision, Context Engineering, Hugging Face, LLM Integration (OpenAI API), MCP Server Development, ML-Based Fraud Detection, PyTorch, RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation)

### Architecture & Systems

API Design (REST, GraphQL, OpenAPI), Distributed Systems, Embedded Systems (ESP32, FreeRTOS), Event-Driven Architecture, Microservices, Observability (OpenTelemetry, Datadog), Performance Optimization

### Cloud & Infrastructure

AWS / Azure / Google Cloud, CI/CD (GitHub Actions, Jenkins), Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, Networking (TCP/IP, DNS), Serverless Architecture, Terraform

### Data & Analytics

A/B Testing, BigQuery, Business Intelligence (Tableau, Looker), Data Pipelines / ETL, Data Warehousing, PostgreSQL

### Identity & Security

Account Security, API Security, Identity & Access Management (IAM, RBAC, SAML), Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), OAuth, SSO

### Languages & Frameworks

C/C++, C# / .NET, Java, JavaScript / TypeScript, Python, React (Tailwind, shadcn/ui), SQL

### Product & Platform

0-to-1 Product Development, Incident Management, Platform Strategy, SLO/SLI Frameworks