JAKE LOVE

SOFTWARE ARCHITECT | FORWARD-DEPLOYED ENGINEERING | DESIGN SYSTEMS + AI

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PROFILE

Software engineer and architect with 20+ years building production web software and more than a decade specializing in enterprise design systems. Early Basalt/Knapsack engineer whose career expanded from senior software engineering into solutions architecture and forward-deployed engineering without leaving hands-on development behind. Embedded with enterprise teams to solve difficult problems across design systems, developer platforms, CI/CD, and AI-assisted design-to-code - then turn recurring field constraints into scalable customer solutions and reusable product capabilities.

CORE EXPERTISE

SOFTWARE & PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE

TypeScript/JavaScript, Node.js, React, Web Components, Angular, Vue, APIs/GraphQL, component & package architecture

ENTERPRISE DESIGN SYSTEMS

Design token architecture, multi-brand systems, component APIs, Figma Variables, Tokens Studio, Style Dictionary, Storybook, MUI, Carbon, Chakra UI, Angular Material

AI & AGENTIC ENGINEERING

MCP, context & instruction engineering, agentic workflow architecture, prompt engineering, skills/plugins, design-to-code

DEVOPS & DEVELOPER PLATFORMS

CI/CD, release engineering, npm/Lerna, package publishing, staging/canaries, Git workflows, deployment troubleshooting

FORWARD-DEPLOYED & ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING

Customer embedding, technical discovery, solution architecture, production debugging, developer enablement, enterprise security constraints, field-to-product

EXPERIENCE

KNAPSACK / BASALT | Portland, OR / Remote

Senior Solutions Architect / Forward-Deployed Engineer & Architect | 2024-2026

Senior Software Engineer (Basalt) → Solutions Engineer / Solutions Architect (Knapsack) | 2018-2023

- Embedded with strategic enterprise engineering teams, shipping production code in customer-owned repositories and owning difficult integration, architecture, and delivery problems across their existing stacks.
- Architected and implemented Columbia Sportswear's production React/Chakra design-system integration on top of an existing POC, including multi-theme architecture, token resolution, component styling, brand-specific token artifacts, and testing infrastructure.
- Re-engineered Columbia's release pipeline around enterprise branch protection using Lerna and the GitHub API; added safe package publishing, reconciliation PRs, fork-aware staging, and PR canaries without weakening customer security controls.
- Led GSK AI/design-system integration with Gradial: enabled machine-to-machine authentication, provisioned API access, validated MCP tools, and root-caused a list-tokens contract regression that returned an unbounded 4.13 MB catalog (11,663 tokens / 6,065 groups), causing agent context failures; supplied a workaround and systemic product fixes.
- Designed agent instructions, prompts, skills/plugins, and MCP-enabled workflows for customer and internal teams; demonstrated how structured design-system context changes generated code and trained customers on repeatable AI-assisted engineering patterns.
- Recovered a blocked GSK Heroku deployment by tracing the 1 GB slug failure to redundant generated token artifacts; authored the customer-repo change that reduced checkout size from ~1.1 GB to ~0.4 GB (~64%) without redesigning the pipeline.
- Owned an escalated Storybook-to-Knapsack migration for GSK/Photon, including migration automation and editorial handoff guidance; delivered 244 new patterns (312 total) and unblocked the partner sprint.
- Designed GSK's agent-ready email design-system architecture connecting reusable components, Handlebars/static HTML, structured schemas, MCP, and Gradial for downstream SFMC workflows; stood up the dedicated workspace, deployments, Cloud Authoring, and SSO in one day.
- Served as a Forward Deployed Engineer/Architect for PNC, building and debugging integrations in a regulated Bitbucket/OpenShift/DataPower environment; isolated a persistent write-path failure to a backend operation exceeding the gateway timeout.
- Turned recurring customer problems into reusable product improvements: originated a fork-based staging model at GSK and generalized it across Columbia/PNC, helped shape long-running-branch/read-only-deploy product work, and personally shipped Knapsack product code for deploy gating and Figma source-refresh messaging.
- Joined Basalt as an early Senior Software Engineer and helped evolve the company into Knapsack's enterprise SaaS platform, expanding into solutions engineering and architecture while continuing to build, debug, and ship software with customers.

EARLIER ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

JAKE LOVE DEVELOPMENT | **Software Engineer & Designer** | 2016-2018

- Led component-based architecture for Entercom Radio's Drupal platform across 28+ News/Talk/Sports sites; delivered custom WordPress systems and Google Maps API experiences for additional clients.

PHASE2 TECHNOLOGY | **Software Developer** | 2014-2016

- Built web platforms for clients including Twitter, NBA and Rare; contributed to open-source systems and bridged engineering with estimation, discovery, project management and client delivery.

ENTERCOM RADIO | **Corporate Web Developer** | 2011-2014

- Led corporate and national web engineering, including streaming-player data services, AJAX/API applications and the 1THING WordPress Multisite platform.

ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS

MULTI-FRAMEWORK DELIVERY

Shipped and scaled enterprise component systems across React/TypeScript, Web Components, Angular, Vue, Handlebars/static HTML, and Drupal/Twig; regularly trained customer teams to extend the systems themselves.

PRODUCTION ENGINEERING BREADTH

Customer and platform work spanning design-token pipelines, component APIs, release/versioning systems, APIs/GraphQL, accessibility gates, staging/canaries, MCP integrations, and agent-ready developer workflows.

EDUCATION

B.S., Web Development & Interactive Media - Art Institute of Portland, 2013, High Honors
A.A., General Education - Clackamas Community College, 2008, Honors / Phi Theta Kappa