

PAVEL HOLYAVKIN

Forward Deployed / Applied AI Engineer San Diego, CA (remote, travel OK) | hire@holyavkin.com |
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SUMMARY

Senior engineer who puts AI systems into production at real businesses and proves they work with evals, not demos. 17+ years shipping software. Co-Founder & CTO of Okee, where I build and run the full stack with an AI-agent engineering harness. Formerly Head of Client Engineering at MileIQ (1M+ users, acquired by Bending Spoons). Since October 2025, freelance AI engineer for construction, legal, education, media, and insurance teams: agents, retrieval, workflow automation, and the reliability work that keeps them running. Upwork Expert-Vetted (top 1%), 100% Job Success.

EXPERIENCE

Okee | Co-Founder & CTO | Apr 2026 - Present | San Diego

Streak-and-rewards screen-time app for families; 500+ families on the waitlist, private beta on TestFlight. - Built and run the full stack as the technical founder: SwiftUI iOS app with four Screen Time (Family Controls) extensions, an Express/TypeScript/MongoDB API on AWS, a Next.js admin console, and the marketing site. 800+ commits across the app, backend and admin. - Production operations: blue/green API deploys with automatic verification and rollback, an isolated staging environment, a beta health dashboard, and PostHog analytics. - Run engineering through an AI-agent harness: Claude Code and Codex agents building in parallel under hooks that enforce review and test gates, plus a PR-readiness check logged on 130+ PRs.

Freelance AI Engineer / Fractional CTO | Oct 2025 - Present | Remote

- **Construction estimating (real estate rehab):** built an unattended pipeline that turns a walkthrough video into a priced scope of work and estimate. Designed a 3-tier eval (price delta, line-item coverage, scope fidelity) with an untouched holdout property. Raised scope fidelity from 27% to 72%, and used deterministic extractors to fix the model's silent omissions.
- **Law firm:** repaired production email capture on Power Automate. Reconciled mailbox, run history, and logs; rehearsed a controlled failure path; audited 742 attachment candidates with zero gaps; verified rollback and removed access at handoff. Integrated a Clio MCP connector with custom field and notification fixes.
- **Education SaaS (fractional CTO):** production readiness for a live CRM and test platform. Built an append-only storage backup (21K objects, 7.8 GB) with a byte-verified restore drill, set up isolated staging on Vercel + Neon, and fixed a Postgres pool failure that was terminating requests.
- **Documentary studio:** media archive pipeline with an atomic job queue, crash recovery, tiered subtitle-to-Whisper transcription, and chunked cloud upload on systemd.
- **Insurance sales and regulatory research:** lead-scoring and message-drafting pipeline (Apify + Claude). Citation-aware FDA/PubMed/ClinicalTrials.gov research workspace (FastAPI, pgvector, Next.js).

MileIQ (acquired by Bending Spoons, 2025) | Apr 2022 - Sep 2025 | Remote

iOS Engineer -> Guild Lead -> Head of Mobile -> Head of Client Engineering; Chair, AI Committee - Led client engineering for a 1M+ user app through a 2M-line rewrite from React Native to native iOS and Android, keeping 99.9%+ crash-free. - Increased retention 9% through A/B-tested features with Product and Design. - As AI Committee chair, took a 60+ person company from 1-2 to 6+ hours/week saved per person with AI Fridays and cross-functional office hours.

Founder, App Incubator | 2020 - 2025

- Shipped 50+ apps and automations for clients from startups to Fortune 500, including ARKit/3D work and Private Notes (on-device LLM, idea to App Store in 21 days).

Earlier

- Founder, AI chatbot platform (2013-2020): 10 production bots on Messenger and Telegram with custom backends and analytics.
- Co-founder & CEO, EasyWakeup (2008-2012): #1 Top Grossing in 5 countries.

SKILLS

AI: Claude/OpenAI/Gemini APIs, agents and tool calling, MCP, RAG (pgvector), eval harnesses and holdouts, prompt/context engineering, Claude Code and Codex agentic workflows **Engineering:** Python, TypeScript/Node, Swift, SQL, FastAPI, Next.js, Postgres/Supabase/Neon, Vercel, AWS Lambda, Power Automate, systemd/launchd, CI/CD **Delivery:** customer discovery, scoping, stakeholder demos, runbooks and handoff, recovery drills

EDUCATION

B.S. Microelectronics & Semiconductor Devices, Far Eastern National University; Machine Learning (Stanford/Coursera)