

ERIK MICHAELSON

Brooklyn, New York ◇ erik.michaelson@gmail.com ◇ erikmichaelson.com

SUMMARY

Product engineer with 12 years shipping o→1 at small companies — employee #1 at Vitally (customer success, through Series A), 3rd engineer at Sunbound (healthcare payments). I own problems end-to-end: data model, APIs, infrastructure, and UI. TypeScript / React / Node / AWS, with deep billing and payments domain experience.

EXPERIENCE

Sunbound — payments platform for senior care

October 2024 - Present

Senior Software Engineer

New York, NY

- 3rd engineer; own product surfaces end-to-end across React frontend, Node/TypeScript APIs, and AWS (Lambda, DynamoDB, SQS, CDK)
- Designed the payment lifecycle state machine governing ACH charges and returns, replacing implicit status logic scattered across services with a single auditable model
- Authored the team's canonical ACH returns reference (NACHA return codes, timing windows) — the internal source of truth for payment failure handling
- Built batch ingestion and reconciliation pipelines (CSV import, PDF parsing, reporting) across DynamoDB and MySQL
- Cut CI/CD runtime ~30m → ~5m (parallelized builds, optimized tests and DB setup); cut Lambda bundles ~30MB → <3MB for faster cold starts
- Built *forkspace*, a CLI giving every engineer isolated Docker Compose dev environments; adopted team-wide
- Pod lead: scoping, delivery, mentoring, technical interviewing

Vitally — customer success platform

October 2018 - September 2023

Senior Software Engineer

New York, NY

- Employee #1; built the core product and infrastructure from zero through Series A
- Led migration of user data from PostgreSQL to DynamoDB: redesigned data models and access patterns for scale with zero customer-facing downtime
- Owned billing and CRM integrations (Chargebee, HubSpot, Zendesk): sync architecture, idempotency, and failure handling for customer-critical data flows
- Designed and built Vitally.js, the public SDK customers embed to send product data — owned API surface, docs, and versioning for external developers

Pathgather — enterprise learning platform

October 2015 - May 2018

Senior Front-End Engineer

New York, NY

- Led platform transition from AngularJS/CoffeeScript to React/Relay/TypeScript
- Built multi-tenant branded component system, including an email templating microservice
- Built codegen producing TypeScript definitions from GraphQL schema, eliminating a class of data consistency bugs

MetaCommunications

May 2013 - Aug 2015

JavaScript Engineer

Iowa City, IA

- Full-stack JavaScript features across proprietary frameworks (Knockout.js, MVVM, Jasmine)

SKILLS

TypeScript/JavaScript, Node.js, React, Vite

AWS: Lambda, DynamoDB, SQS, S3, CDK; PostgreSQL/MySQL, GraphQL

LLM tooling: Claude Code-driven workflows, MCP server development, Anthropic/OpenAI APIs

EDUCATION

University of Iowa — B.A. Computer Science; minors in Music and Film

2013