

Barry Walker

Full-Stack Product Engineer

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SUMMARY

Full-stack product engineer with 20+ years building and operating production systems. I work end to end across the database, backend, frontend, and the deployment infrastructure that keeps everything running, and I specialize in turning prototypes and fragile, inherited systems into reliable software a team can operate and scale. Core stack: Python/Django, Postgres, Redis, AWS, Kubernetes, and Terraform.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-founder & CTO

Apr 2026 - Present

Dancing Panda

Early-stage venture building tools that connect families and schools.

- Leading technical strategy and execution across product, architecture, engineering, and infrastructure.
- Building the next-generation platform.

Senior Systems Engineer

Sep 2020 - Present

Rocket Mortgage, Remote

Fortune 500 retail mortgage lender, part of Rocket Companies.

- Architect and maintain AWS infrastructure and CI/CD pipelines for the Client Communications & Engagement group, directly supporting quickenloans.com and rocketmortgage.com.
- Primary infrastructure owner for the enterprise Sitecore XP installation running multi-region in AWS. Over four years: implemented disaster recovery capabilities, built internal tooling to accelerate deployments while reducing risk, and led the migration of 15 service pipelines from CircleCI to GitHub Actions.
- Designed and built the Global Preference Center from the ground up, a platform enabling customers to manage contact preferences across Rocket's entire Family of Companies. This system handles compliance-critical communication preferences at enterprise scale.
- Core member of the Super Bowl Operations team every year since joining. Responsible for ensuring platform stability during peak traffic events when millions of viewers hit the site simultaneously following nationally televised ad spots, with zero tolerance for downtime.

Senior Software Architect

Feb 2017 - Sep 2020

ZeroNorth, Boston, MA (acquired by Harness)

Security orchestration platform unifying vulnerability scanning across the SDLC. Acquired by Harness in 2021.

- Owned the complete infrastructure and deployment strategy for a 15-microservice security orchestration platform (Python/Node.js). Company was acquired by Harness in 2021.
- Led the full platform migration from Mesosphere DC/OS to Kubernetes. Rebuilt all deployment automation using Helm and Terraform, reducing full environment provisioning from days of manual work to a single 'make deploy' command.
- Architected the on-premise deployment capability by packaging the entire platform into a VMware OVA running microk8s. This unlocked the enterprise sales motion for customers who couldn't use cloud deployments.
- Implemented comprehensive observability across all environments using DataDog, including custom log processing pipelines that enabled real-time debugging and alerting across the distributed system.
- Built and operated the CI/CD infrastructure: Jenkins with 8 parallel build pipelines servicing 80+ GitHub repositories, plus a dedicated ELK cluster for centralized logging and metrics.
- Developed the platform's build-time integration agent, a customer-facing product feature that scans artifacts during CI builds and fails pipelines when security vulnerabilities are detected.
- Implemented full horizontal autoscaling across all Kubernetes environments, configuring both pod autoscalers and cluster autoscalers to handle variable workloads efficiently.

Senior Software Engineer

Jun 2012 - Feb 2017

Autodesk, Boston, MA

Global design and engineering software company. Joined through Autodesk's acquisition of Vela Systems.

- Transitioned to Autodesk through the acquisition of Vela Systems. Continued as a Ruby on Rails engineer on BIM 360 Field, a construction field management platform used by major contractors and project owners worldwide.
- Assumed full SRE ownership of BIM 360 Field in 2013. Managed production infrastructure on AWS, deployment automation via Capistrano, and configuration management with Chef. Responsible for uptime of a platform supporting thousands of active construction projects.

Senior Software Engineer

Feb 2008 - Jun 2012

Vela Systems, Burlington, MA (acquired by Autodesk)

Mobile-first construction management software; one of the first enterprise iPad applications. Acquired by Autodesk in 2012.

- Core engineer on the Vela Field Manager platform, a Ruby on Rails application for construction field management that was acquired by Autodesk in 2012, becoming BIM 360 Field.
- Architected and built the mobile REST API layer that synchronized data between the Rails backend and mobile clients, handling offline-first workflows critical for construction sites with unreliable connectivity.
- One of two engineers who built the original iPad application in Objective-C from scratch. Owned all device-to-server communication, REST API integration, and local data persistence with SQLite. This was pioneering mobile development; the iPad had only launched in 2010.
- Designed and implemented the reporting infrastructure using Jasper Reports Server, enabling construction managers to generate compliance and progress reports directly from field data.

Independent Consulting Practice

Engaged by startups and enterprises to architect cloud infrastructure, execute datacenter-to-cloud migrations, and build CI/CD pipelines. Selected engagements:

- Dancing Panda: Advised technically from the earliest days; transitioned to Co-founder & CTO in April 2026.
- Equip Health: Architected serverless AWS infrastructure for their next-generation eating disorder treatment platform using Terraform and the Serverless Framework. Enabled the engineering team to deploy and iterate on a fully serverless backend.
- Autodesk: Led the containerization initiative for BIM 360 Ops, migrating the product from AWS OpsWorks to a modern container-based deployment model. Established patterns subsequently adopted by other Autodesk teams.
- Building Engines (acquired by JLL): Executed full datacenter migration from Rackspace to AWS for their legacy Java/Tomcat application. Subsequently built greenfield EKS infrastructure for their cloud-native products using Terraform and Helm, with Bitbucket Pipelines for CI/CD. Served as interim Director of Cloud Operations.
- Polis (TechStars, acquired by Ad Practitioners): Brought in post-accelerator to build production-grade AWS infrastructure and CI/CD pipelines. Established the foundation that supported the company through acquisition.
- Tenant Technologies: Migrated five PHP applications from on-premise datacenter to AWS Elastic Beanstalk. Implemented autoscaling and auto-healing patterns, transforming their operational model from manual intervention to self-managing infrastructure.