

Doug Silkstone

Lead Product Engineer

doug@withseismic.com | Portfolio & detailed CV | GitHub | LinkedIn

London onsite or remote · Available for engineering contracts and selected permanent roles

Hands-on engineering lead with experience taking products from an ambiguous brief through architecture, implementation, launch and operation. Built and sold three software businesses; delivered work for Contra, Framar, The Motley Fool, Groupon and STRV. Combines full-stack development with product judgment, team leadership and practical experience in acquisition, analytics and customer retention.

CORE SKILLS

Product engineering: TypeScript, React, Next.js, Node.js, PostgreSQL, GraphQL, browser extensions, Expo / React Native, payments and AI integrations.

Technical leadership: architecture, scoping, hiring, delivery, QA and production operations.

Additional depth: Rust / Tauri, Python, C++, analytics, experiments and lifecycle systems.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Lead Product Engineer & Founder | WithSeismic

August 2016 - Present | [Project evidence](#)

- Delivered 100+ engagements, owning requirements, architecture, implementation, QA, release and support in collaboration with founders and product, design, marketing and engineering teams.
- **Contra / Indy.ai:** built the Chrome extension and AI-assisted opportunity-discovery pipeline. The product reached 35,000+ users, doubled marketplace inventory and won Product Hunt's #1 Product of the Week.
- **GrowthRunner:** built an analytics QA extension; MVP in ten days, finished build in two weeks. Enabled ten audits in the time previously needed for one.
- **Snacker.ai:** built a video workflow connecting transcription, AI-assisted edit decisions and browser rendering.

Technical Founder | Hogsend

May 2026 - Present | [Project evidence](#)

- Founded and built a TypeScript framework for lifecycle automation: SDK, durable journey engine, tests, Studio, CLI and MCP tooling.
- Own product, architecture, developer experience and launch; built cloud deployments for EU and US regions and a self-hosted Docker option.

Interim Engineering Lead | RaceMake

March 2026 - July 2026 | [Project evidence](#)

- Led architecture and delivery across a Rust/Tauri desktop app and React web app for sim-racing telemetry.
- Rebuilt high-frequency data pipelines and game adapters; built AI-assisted performance analysis and interactive 3D lap visualisations.

EXPERIENCE & SELECTED PRODUCTS

Technical Founder | Dinners With Friends

November 2024 - Present | [Project evidence](#)

- Built the React/Next.js website, Hono/PostgreSQL backend, Expo mobile apps, Stripe Connect booking and payment flows, waitlists and host operations tools.
- The business hosted 500+ guests across 50 dinners, selling out six to eight weeks ahead. Google Search clicks increased 66%, from 3,330 to 5,530, comparing March-May with June-August 2026.

Lead Growth and Product Operator | Patrianna

November 2022 - July 2023 | [Project evidence](#)

- Built an in-house game studio, hired and led the frontend, game-development and QA team, and shipped five React games to a platform with 1 million players.
- Owned product architecture, delivery, monetisation, retention, telemetry and release quality.

Digital Marketing Manager | Reach Robotics

November 2016 - May 2018 | [Project evidence](#)

- Led marketing and digital operations for MekaMon, an AR battle robot launched globally in Apple Stores. Managed a £100,000 paid-marketing budget and hired marketing, video and customer-support teams.
- Owned ecommerce, analytics and agency relationships; influencer campaign videos accumulated 750,000+ views.

Performance Marketing and Automation | Vouchercloud

November 2014 - November 2016 | [Project evidence](#)

- Managed multi-million-pound paid search across 15 international sites, then built React tooling that saved 240 hours per month and reduced team overhead by 40%.

FOUNDED, BUILT & OPERATED

getBenson - Ecommerce SaaS detecting coupon-extension leakage at checkout. Built production GraphQL APIs and real-time revenue analytics; operated across 500+ stores and 25 million monthly sessions. Led technical sales and onboarding for 80+ brands, then sold the business.

Vouchernaut - Automated voucher marketplace covering 100,000+ brands and reaching 250,000 monthly sessions without paid acquisition or a content team. Owned product, acquisition, monetisation and operations, then sold the business.

Promptheus - Voice-to-ChatGPT Chrome extension with 30,000+ users. Used as an assessment on MIT's Generative AI and LLM course.

OPEN SOURCE & RECOGNITION

Contributions to TanStack Query, Router and Start, Mastra AI and openDAW. Built the open-source C++ **Source 2 runtime schema SDK**. Performance Marketing Awards in 2016 and 2017; Awwwards Honorable Mention for the interactive ctxdc course website.