

# Spenser McConnell

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## SUMMARY

AI Product & Solutions leader with a background in technical product management, AI architecture, and automation. Experienced in designing and deploying scalable AI systems, from data pipelines and model serving (LLMs, embeddings, inference) to workflow orchestration and business automation. Skilled at bridging technical and business needs, leading cross-functional teams, and driving adoption of emerging AI technologies to deliver measurable outcomes.

## EXPERIENCE

### Technical Product Manager | Acadium | Los Angeles, US | April 2024 - Present

- Conducted a technical audit during the acquisition of Acadium, evaluating the codebase and delivering actionable insights that directly influenced the acquisition decision.
- Developed and evaluated AI prototypes, including a file-chunking ingestion pipeline and embedding-based search workflows, to validate automation opportunities and guide build vs. buy decisions.
- Owned the product and engineering roadmap, leading sprint meetings, setting clear goals, and driving accountability across a 4-person engineering team, resulting in a 74% improvement in sprint completion rates.
- Streamlined product feature prioritization and timeline management, aligning initiatives with business objectives and enhancing customer satisfaction.
- Facilitated architecture reviews and introduced a staging + CI/CD pipeline, improving deployment reliability and reducing production failures by over 40%.
- Defined and translated complex technical requirements into product specs and acceptance criteria, bridging communication between stakeholders and engineers.
- Led vendor research, negotiations, and selection for SOC 2 compliance, crafting a detailed roadmap to strengthen security protocols.

### Web Development Manager | UNINCORPORATED | Los Angeles, CA | May 2022 - May 2024

- Led a team of 4 developers to build responsive, high-performance platforms for higher education clients, integrating automation and early AI-powered tools to improve scalability and efficiency.
- Implemented a modular page builder system that cut development time by 45%, boosted load speed by 50%, and applied accessibility best practices, later extending automation to streamline content workflows.
- Architected and launched an 8-site university platform, introducing modular design patterns and automated maintenance scripts that reduced upkeep time by 60% and enabled self-service department customization.
- Developed and standardized project budgeting and resource allocation systems, incorporating AI-assisted forecasting to reduce overruns and improve planning accuracy.
- Directed web and AI initiatives, mentoring junior developers, standardizing workflows, and piloting adoption of AI tools for code generation, testing, and content production to enhance team productivity.

### Founder & Web Developer | Surreal Studio | Columbus, IN | February 2011 - October 2021

- Generated consistent revenue providing web development services for 60+ clients across healthcare, education, and technology sectors.
- Managed client projects with 90% retention rate over 10 years.
- Established partnerships with 3 major marketing agencies, securing long-term recurring contracts.
- Scaled from freelance to sustainable business through strategic partnerships and consistent referrals.

### Senior Digital Developer | MKR | Indianapolis, IN | November 2015 - September 2017

- **Led** technical team of 3 developers while providing architectural guidance to design team.
- **Spearheaded** complete visual redesign of legacy enterprise site, implementing responsive design and modern aesthetics within technical constraints.
- **Created** a location finder tool that increased store visits by 25% within first 3 months.
- **Mentored** designers in technical best practices, improving development handoff efficiency.
- **Led** strategic planning for digital initiatives, resulting in 95% on-time project delivery rate.

### Front-End Developer & Product Consultant | Humana | Louisville, KY | March 2015 - November 2015

- **Created** rapid prototypes for internal healthcare initiatives using Lean Startup methodology, accelerating product validation.
- **Built** intuitive interfaces through close collaboration with UX research teams, reducing support volume.
- **Optimized** application performance through systematic debugging and codebase improvements.
- **Created** data visualization tools for team performance tracking.

### Web Developer | Joust Multimedia | Columbus, IN | February 2012 - March 2015

- **Designed** and developed custom websites for clients across industries, focusing on mobile-friendly design and robust functionality.
- **Drove** client strategy sessions to align technical solutions with business objectives.

- **Executed** complex web projects from discovery through deployment, consistently meeting milestones.
  - **Managed** long-term client partnerships including maintenance, updates and feature additions.
  - **Supported** video production through technical direction, video editing, and on-location assistance.
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## PROJECTS

### Substrate | Personal Project | [github.com/atomize-hq/substrate](https://github.com/atomize-hq/substrate)

- **Core Functionality:** Transparent system-wide command interception through automatic binary shimming with a custom shell supporting multiple execution modes (interactive REPL, script, wrap, pipe).
  - **Advanced Features:** Automatic PTY detection for seamless terminal emulation, structured JSONL logging with credential redaction, session correlation tracking, and binary integrity verification.
  - **AI Integration Vision:** Designed as secure middleware between AI agents and system resources, providing isolation, audit trails, and centralized policy control.
  - **Roadmap:** Security Worlds for isolated execution environments, policy engine for command allowlists and resource limits, REST API for AI agent integration with budget controls, and a graph database for tracking command relationship.
  - **Platform Strategy:** Cross-platform support via virtualization (Lima VMs for macOS, WSL2 for Windows), positioning as foundational infrastructure for secure AI-assisted development workflows.
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## EDUCATION

### Web Design & Development | Ivy Community College

Columbus, IN | 2015

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## SKILLS

**Core Competencies:** Leadership, Strategic Product Management, AI Solutions Architecture, Technical Evangelism, Process Automation, Workflow Optimization, Agile/Scrum, Stakeholder Engagement, Roadmap Development, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Rapid Prototyping, Ethical AI & Responsible Innovation

**AI & ML:** LLMs (OpenAI, Anthropic, Llama, Groq), Frameworks (LangChain, Hugging Face, Rasa, spaCy), Vector Databases (Weaviate, Pinecone, Qdrant, FAISS), Model Serving & Inference (llama.cpp, vLLM, TensorRT, ONNX Runtime), ML Frameworks (PyTorch, TensorFlow), AI Ops & Monitoring (LangSmith, Weights & Biases)

**Automation & Orchestration:** Prefect, Airflow, Dagster, Temporal, Celery, Bull, Argo Workflows, Azure Automation, Zapier, Make.com, n8n, Retool

**Programming & Development:** Python, TypeScript, Rust, PHP, NodeJS, Flask, FastAPI, ExpressJS, React, NextJS, NestJS

**Product & Design Tools:** Figma, WordPress, Strapi, Adobe Creative Suite, Notion, Airtable, Miro

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