

Kellan Benn

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SUMMARY

User-focused **Senior Full Stack Software Engineer** with 7+ years of experience building responsive, scalable web and mobile applications. Known for blending clean engineering with business intuition, shaped by a background in entrepreneurship and digital marketing. Proven leader in cross-functional teams, product ownership, and junior developer mentorship. Certified in **AI Engineering** and **Agile Leadership**.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frontend: React, Next.js, TanStack, Redux, Zustand, TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS/SCSS, Tailwind CSS

Backend: Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, GraphQL, Convex, Clerk, Sentry, Stripe

CMS: Payload, WordPress (Traditional & Headless)

Mobile: React Native, Expo, Superwall A/B Testing

Other: Vitest, Jest, REST APIs, CI/CD, Postman, Posthog, VWO A/B Testing, Mailchimp Email Marketing, Salesforce Email Marketing

Certifications: AI Engineering, Professional Agile Leadership

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer - Valley IT

October 2025 – Present

- Maintained and extended Kernos, an enterprise geospatial intelligence platform built with React, TypeScript, Go services, TypeSpec REST contracts, PostgreSQL, and Apache AGE
- Shipped Demise Event capabilities across generated API clients, React Query caching, CRUD mocks, routed create/read/edit workflows, ACL handling, file/image associations, and automated test coverage
- Improved Skynet geospatial workflows using OpenLayers, Zustand, RxJS, and TypeScript for live tracks, sensor alerts, feature styling, and high-volume map interactions
- Modernized monorepo quality infrastructure with Storybook 10 migration groundwork, Vitest/Storybook coverage, Moon CI orchestration, and pnpm catalog dependency tooling

Lead Software Engineer - Imaginuity

July 2019 – October 2025

- Built **responsive, mobile-first UIs** with **React 19/Next.js 15+**, **TypeScript**—optimized for **WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility** and consistent cross-device experiences
- **React + TypeScript:** Built Redux Toolkit slices and RTK Query caching—cut API calls ~30-40% and eliminated async race conditions while improving app responsiveness
- **Next.js:** Built **server components and API routes** using the App Router for dynamic data loading and **SEO-optimized rendering** across member-facing pages
- **Mobile (React Native + Expo):** Delivered companion apps with OTA updates via EAS and in-app A/B experiments using Superwall
- **Node.js / APIs:** Implemented a lightweight BFF layer aggregating REST + GraphQL calls with pagination and optimistic updates—simplified data access and boosted performance
- **Node.js / SSR & Security:** Introduced a **custom Node SSR pipeline** and **middleware** for request validation, throttling, and bot/abuse mitigation—shielded internal APIs and improved TTFB/SEO
- Established **CI gates** (type checks, unit/integration/visual tests), lifting coverage to 95 %+
- Built an **OpenAI-powered HR chatbot** that automated routine employee inquiries—**cut response times** and improved satisfaction while freeing HR teams for higher-value work

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University — Full-Stack Software Development | **University of Iowa** — B.A. Health & Human Physiology; Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management