

Sean Desmond

FOUNDER @ SAVANTO · FRACTIONAL CTO · APPLIED AI & SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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25+ years building software and leading the teams that build it. Most recently CTO at Dovetail, now founder of Savanto and independent consultant in applied AI and software engineering.

EXPERIENCE

Founder

May 2025 – present

Savanto

- ◆ AI-powered search and chat for any website: shopping assistant, self-service support, and content discovery.
- ◆ Built end to end: WordPress plugin (wordpress.org), multi-tenant AWS platform with hybrid semantic search (OpenSearch), LLM chat pipelines, autonomous crawler.
- ◆ Remote MCP server (mcp.savanto.ai) with one-click OAuth 2.1, listed in the official MCP registry.

Technology Advisor & Consultant | Applied AI, Fractional CTO

2006 – present

Independent

- ◆ Currently fractional CTO for Dovetail, where I previously led technology full-time.
- ◆ LLM feature development (RAG, semantic search, agents, MCP), cloud architecture (AWS/GCP), and engineering leadership.
- ◆ Clients over the years: CoinList, Eataly, ExxonMobil, COTA Healthcare, Argonne National Laboratory, University of Miami, RW3, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and others.

Chief Technology Officer

Mar 2023 – May 2025

Dovetail

- ◆ Led product and engineering for a platform modernizing e-commerce for retailers of all sizes.
- ◆ Architected an enterprise React/TypeScript framework with an advanced design system and extensible plugin architecture.
- ◆ ~95% client retention through hands-on sales engineering; continue to serve as fractional CTO.

Head of Engineering · Director of Software Engineering

Jun 2019 – May 2025

Pocket Made

- ◆ Directed teams for clients including Procter & Gamble and Marriott.
- ◆ 45% improvement in engineering KPIs through process overhauls; 30% lift in talent retention across DevOps, data science, and development.

Principal Engineer (Consultant)

2016 – 2018

ExxonMobil

- ◆ Led the InSite SPA initiative for personnel tracking in high-risk regions; modernized a legacy front end with Vue.js under strict compliance requirements.

Lead Engineer (Consultant)

2014 – 2016

COTA Healthcare

- ◆ Built an oncology data platform from inception (Node.js, NoSQL, AWS, Angular); engineering team grew from 5 to 75+ during my tenure.

Senior Software Engineer

2011 – 2017

CBTS

- ◆ Enterprise delivery across web platforms; led multi-language SDK creation and the SOAP-to-REST API transition for Global Payments.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Red McCombs School of Business

2004 – 2006

MBA, Information Management & Entrepreneurship

University of Dayton

1995 – 2000

B.S. Computer Engineering