

Justin Sawyer *(he/him)*

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SUMMARY

Full-stack engineer with 15+ years shipping user-facing edtech products, specializing in TypeScript and modern SPA architecture with production experience across backend services and AI integration. Track record of taking products from ambiguous concept to scaled production, including a college admissions platform launched to 53 universities and an LLM-powered form builder that earned company-wide buy-in. Drawn to small teams building AI tools that amplify human expertise.

CORE COMPETENCIES

TypeScript | Angular | React | RxJS | Component Library Architecture | WCAG Accessibility
Java / Spring Boot | REST APIs & Microservices | RabbitMQ / Event-Driven | PostgreSQL | AI/LLM Integration | RAG + Vector Search

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Software Engineer | CollegeNET, Inc. | Portland, OR Mar 2025 to Dec 2025

Edtech SaaS serving universities with admissions, CRM, and form-building platforms.

- Led 4-engineer Eazel form builder team through monthly release cycles, owning sprint planning, architecture, and mentorship while shipping production features through a company sale and reorganization
- Built AI form generation from idea to executive demo using LLM structured outputs, RAG with vector search, and human-in-the-loop refinement; secured company-wide buy-in for production rollout
- Designed AI-powered PDF-to-form conversion that automated form migration previously requiring days of manual developer work

Senior Software Engineer, Services Team | CollegeNET, Inc. | Portland, OR Aug 2022 to Mar 2025

- Reduced payments-service production incidents from monthly to near zero by modernizing the AngularJS codebase to Angular with unit and Playwright e2e coverage
- Built Apple Pay integration with a custom payment-data decryption service (BouncyCastle), replacing an unscalable per-client encryption key setup
- Established Playwright e2e testing practices across the Services team through hands-on QA mentorship

Software Engineer | CollegeNET, Inc. | Portland, OR Feb 2011 to Aug 2022

- Architected Fixie form platform from inception, scaling to 10M API requests per day at peak across CRM, Coalition, and events products
- Led UI architecture for Coalition App, a college admissions platform built from scratch as an alternative to the Common App; shipped on a one-year timeline to 53 universities, scaling to 150
- Created reusable form builder and engine NPM libraries unifying form experiences across four product lines
- Migrated 5+ legacy AngularJS applications to modern Angular, including the Standout.com video interview platform (dual-boot architecture for incremental rollout) and Certifile transcript verification

Web Developer | CollegeNET, Inc. | Portland, OR Sep 2006 to Feb 2011

- Built custom admissions forms for 50+ universities including University of Michigan, working directly with institution admins on production rollouts

SELECTED PROJECTS

Parking Lot Detector (LotMapper) | Parking Reform Network (volunteer) | lotmapper.justinsawyer.dev 2026

- Built full-stack React, Python, and PostGIS app detecting parking lots via a custom-trained AI computer vision model on satellite imagery, feeding data to public-policy advocacy
- Designed human-in-the-loop UI for data refinement with realtime updates via RabbitMQ streams; CI/CD auto-deployment to DigitalOcean

VoiceBox DJ | Personal Project

- Created Angular, Java, and Couchbase app solving fair queue management for private-room karaoke; deployed to Heroku
- Rebuilt on AWS (ECS/EC2) with Terraform IaC; porting UI to React and building a realtime AI recommendation engine using room queue, user history, and Spotify API metrics

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Information Systems | University of Texas at Arlington