

Brian Shimkus

SOLUTIONS ENGINEER · AI INTEGRATION

Chicago, IL · Brian@BrianShimkus.com · BrianShimkus.com · [GitHub.com/brianshimkus](https://github.com/brianshimkus)

SUMMARY

Engineer with 12+ years shipping customer-facing web applications for financial services, credit, and healthcare organizations, now focused on AI solutions delivery as founder of Insolla, an AI consulting practice. Deep experience running stakeholder discovery, translating business problems into working software, and integrating enterprise systems via APIs, with the front-end depth to make demos and proofs-of-concept land.

EXPERIENCE

Insolla | Founder & AI Solutions Engineer

Dec 2025 – Present

- Founded an AI consulting practice focused on LLM-powered integrations and workflow automation for small and mid-size businesses.
- Shipped Workflow Analyzer, a free AI product that extracts workflows from uploaded process docs, screenshots, or SOPs and recommends what to automate and which tools to use: LLM-powered analysis from upload to actionable report.
- Design and build LLM-powered solutions from discovery through working software: OpenAI API integrations, automation workflows, and currently a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) application answering natural-language questions over Salesforce CRM data (Python, LangChain, Pinecone).
- Run end-to-end technical discovery: scope business problems, map them to technical approaches, and present solutions to non-technical stakeholders.

TerraFort (Freelance) | Lead Front-End Developer

Aug 2025 – Dec 2025

- Led design and development of a web and mobile platform at an early-stage startup, executing product initiatives from concept to delivery.
- Evaluated and integrated third-party vendor tools and services into the product and workflow, owning the vendor-facing technical conversations.
- Integrated AI tooling into the development workflow to accelerate delivery; led collaboration across UX, product, and backend teams.

OCC (Contract) | Senior Front-End Developer

Jul 2024 – Jun 2025

- Met weekly with stakeholders at a systemically important financial market utility to set goals, demo progress, and resolve open questions.
- Independently delivered React/TypeScript solutions from design collaboration in Figma through production support across test, QA, and production environments.
- Implemented Mock Service Worker so front-end work could proceed without backend dependencies, unblocking the team and shortening feedback loops.

Marex | Lead Front-End Developer

Oct 2020 – Jan 2024

- Led a five-person front-end team at a global financial services firm, delivering stakeholder-driven solutions in an agile environment.
- Digitalized previously manual broker and trader onboarding by rebuilding the front-end ecosystem in React, eliminating paper-based processes end to end.
- Integrated the DocuSign API to digitize document signing across all products.
- Implemented design tokens and a shared React starter template, tightening the designer–engineer loop and accelerating prototyping across the team.
- Designed and ran an internship program with individual mentorship roadmaps.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

- Walker & Dunlop (Contract) | Senior Front-End Developer** *Mar – Oct 2020*
Built Vue.js platform components with Storybook; connected front-end to APIs.
- ICF | Senior Front-End Developer** *Jan 2019 – Mar 2020*
Led front-end lifecycle; standardized web accessibility across projects.
- TransUnion | Front-End Developer** *Jan 2018 – Jan 2019*
Built a Contentful-based CMS for content owners; deployed to AWS.
- R1 RCM | UX Architect / Front-End Developer** *Apr 2016 – Jan 2018*
Partnered with directors to identify product gaps; built working AngularJS prototypes.
- TimeZoneOne (Contract) | Front-End Developer** *Aug 2015 – Apr 2016*
Custom WordPress themes and cross-browser development; clients included Athletico and the Chicago Wolves.
- Kohactive | Junior Front-End Developer** *Aug 2013 – Aug 2015*
Built responsive client sites (Ruby on Rails, SASS); led client meetings with Aon, Manchester United, and The Vitality Group.

SKILLS

- AI & LLM:** OpenAI APIs · RAG architecture · Prompt design · LLM workflow automation · Python
- Integration & Platform:** REST APIs · Node.js · SQL (MySQL) · DocuSign API · Contentful · AWS
- Front-End:** React · TypeScript · JavaScript · Redux · Tailwind · Jest · Playwright
- Solutions Delivery:** Technical discovery · Stakeholder demos & proofs-of-concept · Solution scoping · Cross-functional leadership

EDUCATION

- Art Institute of Chicago | BFA, Graphic Design (2013) · 3.9 GPA, Dean's List
- Western Illinois University | Instructional Design & Technology (2008–2010)

INTERESTS

- Guitar & songwriting · Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (blue belt) · Reef aquariums