

Markel August

Lead AI Engineer · Philadelphia, PA (open to relocation) · markelaugust74@gmail.com · github.com/markelaugust74 · linkedin.com/in/maaugust

SUMMARY

AI engineer who builds agentic systems end to end, from model training to production serving. Co-architected Tesana's agentic engine, which turns text prompts into playable 3D games and was demoed live at GDC 2026. Built real-time multimodal agents that play games from screenshots alone. Shipped one of the first Google Calendar MCP servers in Dec 2024, months before Anthropic and OpenAI released built-in calendar tools. Self-taught: went from managing a restaurant kitchen to leading AI engineering in under two years. Builds harnesses that get the most out of frontier models, and measures what they can really do.

EXPERIENCE

Dreamsands Inc. (Juice → Tesana) · Remote, LA-based team

Lead AI Engineer, Tesana | Jan 2026 – Present

- Co-architected the agentic engine with the CTO, plus every system the AI interfaces with. The engine turns natural-language prompts into playable 3D games.
- Built real-time game-playing agents: local multimodal decision models that act from screenshots only, with no access to internal game state, inside a custom agent harness.
- Fine-tuned an open-weight LLM for Godot game development: built and filtered the SFT datasets, ran repeated training runs against custom benchmarks, and made the model's use of the Godot API far more reliable than the base model. Optimized the KV cache and quantization to serve it on in-house hardware.
- One user's single-prompt game drew 1.9M impressions and 7,000+ unique players.
- Engine featured in the live GDC 2026 demo "Create Playable Games by Chatting with AI" (Future Tech Stage).

Software Engineer, Juice | Aug 2025 – Dec 2025

- Built AI systems behind the product that became Tesana; promoted to lead the AI engineering work.

Night Labs | May 2025 – Aug 2025

Software Engineer, Lead on Echo (EchoClipping.com)

- Led engineering on Echo: built the core infrastructure and a range of experimental AI/ML tools.
- Referred by Night Labs' VP directly to founders, leading to the Juice and Tesana roles.

Burger King · Philadelphia, PA | Dec 2020 – Apr 2025

Kitchen Manager

- Ran kitchen operations, staffing, and shift leadership for 4+ years while teaching myself software engineering.

SELECTED PROJECTS

mcp-google-calendar, open-source MCP server | Dec 2024

- One of the first Google Calendar MCP servers; 4,600+ downloads. Released months before Anthropic (Apr 2025) and OpenAI (Aug 2025) shipped built-in calendar tools.
- Referenced in arXiv 2603.23802, "How are AI agents used? Evidence from 177,000 MCP tools" (UK AI Security Institute / Oxford).

Mzki, real-time embodied AI companion | Founder and sole engineer

- 3D AI companion with real-time voice (STT/TTS) and long-term memory, running as one continuous character across web, desktop, mobile, Telegram, and Minecraft.

Agent infrastructure at scale

- Run ~1,000 self-iterating agents a month on hard, open-ended challenges, with single runs lasting up to a full day.

Also: Cursor-history-MCP (listed on Glama) · local-ai-chatbot-studio (Live2D, RAG, LanceDB)

SKILLS

- **AI/ML:** agent architecture, SFT fine-tuning, benchmarks and evals, quantization and inference serving, multimodal models, MCP and tool use, RAG, memory systems, real-time STT/TTS, local LLMs
- **Languages:** Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, C++, PHP
- **Systems:** Node, Django, Docker, CI/CD, Tauri, three.js / VRM, GPU render pipelines

EDUCATION

- Community College of Philadelphia: coursework toward A.S. in Computer Science
- freeCodeCamp: Computer Science curriculum (2023–2024)
- Self-taught in AI engineering through building and shipping production systems (2023–present)