

Nico Brenner

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Founding Engineer | AI & Full-Stack Engineer | 15+ Years Building at Scale

Founding engineer across YC-backed startups and venture-funded SaaS. Proven record of taking products from 0→1, scaling backend systems to millions of users, and integrating **AI/LLM-powered features** into production. Deep expertise in **Ruby on Rails, Python, PostgreSQL, AWS, Node/React**, and distributed systems. Passionate about building resilient systems, leading small teams, and shipping fast with impact

CTO & Co-founder

AutopilotReviews > San Francisco / Los Angeles, CA | Oct 2014 – Present

- Built and scaled a distributed SaaS platform for SMS-driven customer engagement (Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL, Redis, Python)
- Integrated with Twilio/Plivo/Bird (A2P10DLC) to process **millions of high-throughput, compliance-heavy messages** reliably
- Designed and managed AWS infrastructure, CI/CD pipelines (CircleCI), and observability systems
- Developed Python scrapers and **ML-powered classification models** to analyze customer feedback data
- Grew product from concept to adoption by 100+ businesses, owning technical strategy and execution end-to-end

Founding Engineer

Padlet (YC W13) > San Francisco, CA | Sep 2013 – Sep 2014

- Scaled backend/frontend systems to support **1M+ users and 5k+ concurrent connections**
- Built features across stack (Rails, Node.js, Angular) with a focus on UX and reliability
- Designed PostgreSQL optimizations that improved responsiveness and uptime of the core product
- Developed **media detection systems using early ML approaches** for compliance and trust & safety

CTO & Co-founder

ClickFono > Santiago, Chile | Mar 2008 – Aug 2013

- Launched one of Latin America's first **SIP/VOIP SaaS platforms**, scaling to thousands of enterprise users
- Designed REST APIs and real-time infrastructure (Rails, PostgreSQL, Asterisk) for high availability
- Led 10+ person engineering team and managed distributed telephony infrastructure

Founding Engineer

Needish (acquired by Groupon) > Santiago, Chile | Mar 2007 – Jan 2008

- Built full product stack (CakePHP, PostgreSQL) for an early **local marketplace** startup
 - Contributed to technical foundation prior to acquisition by Groupon
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AI & Product Innovation Projects

- **OpenJam.ai** > AI-enabled prototyping sandbox ("CodePen for AI"), built with Node + React
 - **CommandJobs** > Open-source CLI that uses **LLMs to match resumes with job postings**
(github.com/nicobrenner/commandjobs)
 - **LinkedIn Sales Navigator AI Extension** > Automated scraper with multimodal filtering, saving **hundreds of recruiter hours**
 - **Conversational Bible Toy** > Fine-tuned a **0.5B LLM running locally on Raspberry Pi** for real-time dialogue generation (including RAG pipeline)
 - **OpenFam** – Mobile app for secure, on-device event extraction and reasoning from emails
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Education

- **UC Berkeley** > EAP Computer Science & IEOR | 2005
- **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile** > Dual Degree in CS & IEOR | 2006
- **Coursera** > Supervised Machine Learning (Andrew Ng)