

SETH SAMUEL WATSON

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Summary

Fractional technology executive and AI strategist with 17+ years across enterprise architecture, cybersecurity, data engineering, and commercial delivery. I founded SSLaboratory to build the kind of AI infrastructure I kept advising clients to invest in. Five interconnected MCP servers, self-hosted Kubernetes, multi-model orchestration. Not a proof of concept. Production systems I run daily. Before that, 13 years at Booz Allen Hamilton as a Lead Associate, leading data engineering teams and building mission-critical platforms for Fortune 500 and federal clients. I help organizations adopt AI strategically: identifying high-leverage workflows, designing architecture, and shipping working systems instead of slide decks.

Experience

SSLaboratory — Founder & Principal Consultant December 2022 – Present | Fairfax, VA (Remote)

Technology consultancy delivering AI strategy, custom software, and infrastructure design for startups, small businesses, and research organizations.

- **Led technology strategy for a geospatial analytics startup** (EchoLabs). Built their web platform, hybrid cloud/on-prem infrastructure, and end-to-end data pipeline from zero — delivering aerial hyperspectral analysis to clients in under 48 hours.
- **Designed and operate an AI-native business operations platform**: 5 interconnected MCP servers handling intelligence briefings, lead routing, content enrichment, and decision logging — all running on self-hosted Kubernetes with LiteLLM multi-model proxy.
- **Greenfield AI workflow design**: Reimagined administrative and operational workflows using LLM-powered automation, replacing manual processes across marketing, sales operations, and client delivery.
- **Built Flight Recorder**, an AI-native SaaS product with MCP integration for business operations assessment and scoring.
- Deliver AI readiness assessments, workflow automation audits, and technology strategy consulting for SMB clients across education, publishing, insurance, and online business.

Booz Allen Hamilton — Lead Associate 2009 – 2022 | McLean, VA

Progressive technology leadership across 13 years. Managed teams, architected enterprise platforms, and served as bridge between technical execution and senior stakeholders. Held TS/SCI clearance.

Data Science & Engineering Lead — Commercial (Cyber Security)

- Managed cross-functional teams of Data Scientists, Engineers, and Analysts for an enterprise cyber security operations center.
- Architected Data Lake and Data Warehouse on AWS (S3, Redshift, Lambda, Glue). Designed APIs for internal and external stakeholder consumption.
- Operationalized ML algorithms from research into production-quality software — bridging data science and engineering.
- Created data governance policies and implemented compliance frameworks for enterprise data management.
- Built executive-facing data visualization and reporting tools.

Software Engineer Lead — Commercial (Fortune 500)

- Built a custom risk assessment platform for a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical company to evaluate security posture and model financial impact of operational decisions.
- Led development teams in Python and JavaScript.

Full Stack Developer — Federal (Law Enforcement / Intelligence)

- Developed web services connecting databases across agencies, used by field officers for real-time lookups.
- Analyzed user behavior and optimized application performance at scale.

Application Developer — Federal (Military / Intelligence)

- Built resilient applications for analysts operating in bandwidth-constrained, remote environments.
- Briefed Government Officials and Corporate Directors on technical capabilities and mission impact.

Relevant Capabilities

AI Strategy & Architecture

- Enterprise AI adoption planning — identifying high-ROI workflows for LLM integration
- Multi-model architecture design (Claude, GPT-4, Gemini, open-source via LiteLLM)
- MCP (Model Context Protocol) ecosystem design — connecting AI to organizational data and tools
- RAG systems, semantic embeddings, and knowledge management pipelines
- AI governance and responsible deployment frameworks

Enterprise Technology Leadership

- Cloud architecture (AWS, hybrid, self-hosted)
- Data platform design (lakes, warehouses, APIs, governance)
- Infrastructure: Kubernetes, GitOps, CI/CD, containerization
- Cybersecurity operations, risk assessment, compliance

Institutional & Stakeholder Collaboration

- 13 years collaborating with senior leadership in Fortune 500 and federal environments
- Translating technical capabilities into business outcomes for non-technical executives
- Cross-functional team leadership (data science, engineering, operations)
- Experience with non-profit and institutional technology direction

Education

Carnegie Mellon University — Pittsburgh, PA

Master of Information Systems and Management

Morehouse College — Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science

Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art

Technical Environment

AI/ML: LLM Integration, MCP Protocol, LiteLLM, Ollama, Semantic Embeddings, RAG, Prompt Engineering

Languages: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, SQL

Data: PostgreSQL, pgvector, Elasticsearch, AWS Redshift, Data Lakes/Warehouses, Tableau

Infrastructure: Kubernetes (Talos), Docker, FluxCD, Cilium, Gateway API, Cloudflare

Cloud: AWS (S3, Lambda, Glue, Redshift), Hybrid Cloud, Self-Hosted

Web: FastAPI, Next.js, React, Tailwind CSS

Security: SOC Operations, Risk Assessment, Data Governance, Compliance Frameworks