

Steven Landers

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PRINCIPAL ENGINEER & TECHNICAL LEADER

Distributed Systems | Financial-Market Infrastructure | Security | Agentic Engineering

Principal-level engineer and technical leader with 20 years building distributed, security-sensitive systems across blockchain, regulated financial infrastructure, fraud detection, telecommunications, and cloud platforms. Currently developing centralized exchange infrastructure at Sei Labs in preparation for Designated Contract Market and Futures Commission Merchant license applications.

- Led the architecture and implementation of Sei's parallelized EVM and its multi-proposer consensus platform, designed for roughly 200,000 transactions per second.
- Helped grow Forta, a \$23 million a16z-backed decentralized security network, from a laptop prototype to roughly 12,000 nodes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sei Labs

2023–Present

L7 Engineer (Manager), Consensus & Execution Team

Centralized Exchange Platform

- Led hands-on development and deployment of a centralized exchange platform in preparation for Designated Contract Market and Futures Commission Merchant license applications.
- Designed and implemented core financial-market infrastructure across trading systems, market operations, security controls, and production readiness.
- Translated regulatory, operational, and risk-management requirements into technical architecture, system controls, and engineering processes.
- Developed the platform with an agentic Claude workflow encoding exchange domain knowledge in reusable skills, guardrails, and automated validation, while retaining ownership of architecture, security, and code review.

Sei Giga

- Led the design, prototyping, and rollout of Sei Giga, a multi-proposer architecture based on a modified Autobahn consensus protocol, designed for 5 gigagas per second (roughly 200,000 transactions per second).
- Led a five-engineer consensus and execution team responsible for incrementally delivering the architecture to mainnet.
- Drove technical design across consensus, execution, performance, and production rollout; contributed to published research on multi-proposer architecture and MEV (see Publications).

Sei Parallelized EVM

- Designed and implemented Block-STM parallel transaction execution on top of Sei's Cosmos-based EVM, delivering the first parallelized EVM implementation in the Sei ecosystem.
- Designed deterministic state-conflict detection, transaction validation, and conflict-resolution mechanisms, with sequential fallback to preserve correctness and mitigate pathological conflict and denial-of-service scenarios.
- Worked across execution, storage, scheduling, validation, and consensus integration to move the design from prototype into production.

OpenZeppelin / Forta

2020–2023

Director of Development / CTO, Forta

Forta

- Served as principal architect for Forta, a decentralized transaction-monitoring and threat-detection network that raised \$23 million from a16z, growing it from a laptop proof of concept to roughly 12,000 production nodes.
- Scaled the platform to more than 13,000 subscribers and more than 900 detection bots continuously monitoring transactions across Ethereum, BNB Smart Chain, Avalanche, Polygon, Arbitrum, and Optimism.
- Led a nine-engineer team responsible for architecture, technical design reviews, roadmaps, and performance management.
- Helped deliver the network protocol, cloud infrastructure, blockchain integrations, token launch, airdrop, and developer platform.

OpenZeppelin Defender

- Principal architect for Defender, a security-first DevSecOps platform for Web3 projects, designed as a scalable AWS serverless application supporting transaction operations, monitoring, automation, and blockchain infrastructure.
- Built systems for reliable JSON-RPC provider access, transaction retry and fee repricing, automated operational tasks, and transaction monitoring.
- Developed the decentralized monitoring proof of concept that became Forta and transitioned to leading Forta full time after funding.

Bishop Fox

2019–2020

Principal Engineer & Software Manager

- Managed a five-engineer team building a high-scale continuous attack-surface and vulnerability-detection platform for Fortune 500 customers.
- Designed and launched cloud-asset ingestion into security analytics systems, and built a domain-discovery system using SSL certificate analysis, WHOIS data, and remote asset lookups.

Netvote (side venture)

2017–2019

Co-Founder & Technical Director

- Co-founded an anonymous, tamper-resistant voting platform built on Ethereum and other distributed-ledger technologies, designing a protocol that integrated blockchain-based voting with modern election processes.
- Delivered production elections with Govurn, including the RChain cooperative board election (2018).

Pindrop

2016–2019

Software Architect

- Architected fraud-detection and authentication systems used by major banks and enterprise call centers, helping evolve Pindrop's data architecture toward approximately three billion analyzed calls per year.
- Led a small team that designed, built, and launched Cloud Protect, a cloud-based fraud platform adopted by multiple large financial customers.
- Designed end-to-end capabilities for real-time fraud detection, model management, and machine-learning processing pipelines; led cross-functional efforts to scale concurrent call-processing capacity.

Vocalocity / Vonage

2010–2016

Director of Software Architecture

- Promoted from Software Engineer through Development Manager and Director of Development to Director of Software Architecture; led teams of as many as 21 software engineers and UX professionals.
- Helped scale Vocalocity's business communications platform before and after its acquisition by Vonage, coordinating distributed teams in Atlanta, New Jersey, and Tel Aviv.
- Designed systems for provisioning, billing, authentication, emergency calling, call-event processing, and telecommunications routing.

Earlier Experience

- **CGI Group, Consultant** | 2006–2010: Built and operated production telecommunications, billing, portal, and set-top-box systems; began career carrying a 24/7 production pager for a major telecommunications provider.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Systems: Distributed systems, consensus protocols, parallel execution, exchange infrastructure, blockchain architecture, security platforms, fraud detection, real-time and event-driven architecture, high-availability systems

Languages & platforms: Go, Python, TypeScript, Java, Solidity, AWS, Terraform, Kubernetes, Docker, PostgreSQL, MySQL, DynamoDB, Kafka, Redis, Elasticsearch

AI-assisted development: Agentic engineering with Claude, including reusable skills, task-specific workflows, automated validation, and human architectural review

EDUCATION

MBA, University of Georgia, 2012 | **BS, Computer Science**, University of Georgia, 2005

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

- Sei Giga: Multi-Proposer Blockchain (arxiv.org/abs/2505.14914)
- MEV in Multi-Proposer Blockchains (arxiv.org/abs/2511.13080)
- Forta: github.com/forta-network | docs.forta.network | forta.org