James Schwahn

AI Platform & Governance Architect · Founder-Operator

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SUMMARY

Founder-operator and AI platform architect. I design and build the control planes that let organizations run AI agents with authority, evidence and measurable outcomes: model gateways with cost policy, agent runtimes with identity and hash-bound approvals, evaluation gates in the release path and tamper-evident audit. Before AI, 25+ years building internet businesses — including a bootstrapped ad-supported network with a $2.4M annualized peak ad run-rate and a distributed team of 70+.

EXPERIENCE

Architect & Engineer, Independent — AI platform & governance systems 2026 – present

Designed and built an AI agent governance control plane, a policy-routed model gateway, governed AI-assisted engineering infrastructure, MCP servers and eval-gated LLM pipelines.

- Titan: one authorization path for every agent action, enforced in code and in the database.
- Fleet supervision: fail-closed merge gates, claim audits, sandboxed CI, independent reviewer sessions.
- FreeAIMesh: evidence-based model admission with health, quota and circuit-breaker routing.

Chief Executive, CryptoBit Media & Intelligence 2023 – present

Media, research and events business covering digital assets and emerging technology; demand generation and ecosystem partnerships.

- Media partnerships and co-hosted events across the industry conference circuit.

Founder, Blocktimus 2014 – present

Growth and technical consultancy: technical SEO, analytics, conversion, platform architecture and — since 2026 — AI automation.

- Technical audits, growth roadmaps and platform builds for clients across technology, commerce and healthcare services.

Founder & CEO, Up Built 2007 – 2014

Founded and ran a bootstrapped, ad-supported web network; owned strategy, P&L, growth, ad-tech monetization and a distributed team.

- Built a flagship property whose analytics history (2006–2017) records hundreds of millions of sessions.
- Engineered the advertising stack to a multi-million-dollar annualized run-rate.
- Built and led a distributed organization across engineering, content and operations.

Digital Strategist, Early e-commerce & search 2000 – 2006

Rebuilt a specialty retailer’s storefront and ran its search and digital strategy — the start of a career spent where technology meets revenue.

SELECTED FIGURES

223M lifetime sessions on one flagship property

$2.4M annualized peak ad revenue

70+ person distributed organization

10,000+ passing tests recorded for the governance control plane

166 owned projects built in 2026

7,700 commits in 2026

Definitions and evidence status for every figure: jamesschwahn.com/record

CAPABILITIES

AI platform	Agent orchestration (multi-agent, worktree isolation), MCP servers, LLM gateways and routing, evals as release gates, OpenTelemetry-style tracing, cost governance
Governance & security	Authorization outside the model, hash-bound human approvals, risk classes, prompt-injection containment, tamper-evident audit, sandboxed CI, secret isolation
Engineering	TypeScript, Python, SQL; Next.js, React, Astro, Node, FastAPI; PostgreSQL, SQLite, Qdrant/pgvector; Docker, systemd, Coolify, Cloudflare
Business	P&L ownership, ad-tech monetization, growth and technical SEO, AI search (AEO/GEO), distributed team leadership, executive advisory

EDUCATION

Equivalent experience: 25+ years of shipped systems and operated businesses.