

Trent McNitt

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SUMMARY

AI Engineer with a full-stack background and 10+ years of software product development experience across web, mobile, and cloud platforms. Ships end-to-end AI applications and agentic AI systems. Top Rated AI Consultant on Upwork (5-star rated, 100% Job Success). Microsoft, Anthropic, and Scrum certified.

Built Agent Lab (agentlab.mcnitt.io), a live AI app analysis tool for engineer observability and non-technical stakeholder presentations; OpenTask, an open-source AI-powered task and habit manager for web, iPhone, Apple Watch, and macOS (demo at opentask.mcnitt.io); Bespoke AI, a 5-star rated AI autocomplete extension for VS Code with 800+ installs; vivaOS, a model- and harness-agnostic LifeOS with autonomous agents, full-resolution memory, and 100M+ tokens under management; and cc-notifier, a Claude Code developer tool with 100+ GitHub stars.

Focused on long-term maintainability, scalability, user experience, and AI best practices. Ready to lead projects and initiatives.

At Klein Tools, worked one-on-one with the Co-President to translate leadership vision into launched products, reducing engineering timelines by months through bottleneck identification and parallel development paths. Presented projects to internal and external stakeholders throughout product development cycles.

Explore live demos and project details at mcnitt.io.

EXPERIENCE

Founder, AI Engineer, and Full-Stack Developer

McNitt, LLC

August 2016 – Present, Brookfield, WI

Independent software product development practice

- Delivered AI consulting and implementation for businesses through Upwork — Top Rated, 100% Job Success.
- Developed multiple cross-platform social apps end to end, with real-time feeds and chat, Firebase backends (Firestore, Cloud Functions, Auth), and multi-environment Terraform, in Flutter and React Native/Expo with an Express/Auth0 API.
- Built a white-label iOS app SaaS for small-business marketing (branded apps plus a web portal for push-notification promotions), a Unity/C# mobile game, and a custom website builder.
- Engineered a shared hybrid RAG engine (FTS5 keyword + vector search, one declared schema) that four subsystems import instead of rolling their own, sharing one warm local embedding service and a common retrieval-eval harness.

Design Engineer & Lean Business Systems Engineer

Klein Tools

August 2011 – August 2016, Lincolnshire, IL

\$350M+ professional hand tool manufacturer and brand

- Served as primary engineer for the Heavy Infrastructure division, working one-on-one with Co-President Tom Klein, Jr.; led 6 new products from concept through manufacturing launch and resolved quality issues across 15 product lines.
- Coordinated product launches with technical and non-technical stakeholders across engineering, marketing, manufacturing, and suppliers — running supplier negotiations, managing schedules, and expediting logistics to hit timelines.
- Reduced typical prototyping turnaround from months to weeks through cross-departmental communication and bottleneck identification.

PROJECTS

Agent Lab — Live AI Debugging and Presentation Tool

McNitt, LLC • agentlab.mcnitt.io • 2026

- Developed an AI debugging and presentation tool on open observability standards (OpenTelemetry) that analyzes AI applications live or from recorded replays, for technical and non-technical stakeholders alike.
- Switches live between two modes: Engineering, for step-by-step debugging down to the exact prompt, context, output, and cost of every model call; and Presentation, for showcasing how an AI solution works to non-technical stakeholders.

- Architected to be framework-agnostic through OpenTelemetry: instrumented apps connect with no code changes, while LangGraph and Agent Spec apps get their whole flow read directly from code, so it can't drift.

OpenTask — AI-Powered Task and Habit Manager

McNitt, LLC • opentask.mcnitt.io • 2026

- Developed a cross-platform AI-powered task and habit manager in daily personal use across web, iPhone, Apple Watch, and macOS apps, including widgets and rich push notifications with custom UIs.
- Ships with four AI features (task entry, Quick Take, What's Next, Insights), each with its own provider and model: any OpenAI-compatible API, Anthropic, local Ollama models, or the Claude Agent SDK with custom warm, subscription-backed process pooling.
- Designed so AI failures never cost data: tasks save before the model runs, failed calls leave the raw text intact, every AI edit is undoable, and code checks override bad model output.
- Engineered a 100+ scenario eval suite (schema and field checks, then LLM-judge rubric scoring); GitHub Actions CI/CD runs unit, integration, and end-to-end tests.

Bespoke AI — VS Code AI Autocomplete Extension

McNitt, LLC • github.com/trentmcnitt/bespoke-ai-vscode-ext • 2026

- Built an AI autocomplete VS Code extension with Claude Agent SDK support for significant cost savings — 800+ installs, 5.0 rating.
- Supports 6 AI providers (Claude, OpenAI, xAI Grok, Gemini, OpenRouter, Ollama) with code vs. writing detection.
- Designed a shared subprocess pool that lets multiple VS Code windows reuse AI backends via IPC.
- Quality-tested against 100+ scenarios modeled on real use, across 10+ models.

vivaOS — Scalable LifeOS

McNitt, LLC • Private; available on request • 2026

- Built a model- and harness-agnostic LifeOS for scale: 100M+ tokens under management, 50+ capabilities, and autonomous agents doing spec- and policy-driven work unattended, around the clock.
- Designed full-resolution memory; system-wide self-improvement with asynchronous human-in-the-loop gating, backups, and rollback; and observability with run ledgers, logs, and alerts when jobs fail or never fire.

cc-notifier — Claude Code Notification Tool

McNitt, LLC • github.com/trentmcnitt/cc-notifier • 2025 – Present

- Released open-source Claude Code tool (100+ GitHub stars) that uses hooks to return focus to idle sessions across desktops.

EDUCATION

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

University of Illinois Chicago • Chicago, IL

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Scrum Master I (PSM I) — Scrum.org • 2026

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals — Microsoft • 2026

Building with the Claude API, Model Context Protocol: Intro & Advanced Topics — Anthropic • 2026

Claude Code in Action — Anthropic • 2026

SKILLS

Claude Code, Claude Agent SDK, Anthropic Claude API, OpenAI API, MCP (Model Context Protocol), Prompt Engineering, AI Agents, LangGraph, AI Tool Use, RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation), Vector Databases, OpenTelemetry, LLM Evaluation, Ollama, AI Workflow Automation, n8n

React, Next.js, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Tailwind CSS, iOS (Swift, SwiftUI), React Native (Expo), Apple Watch (WatchKit)

Azure, AWS (EC2, S3), Node.js, Python, Express, REST APIs, GraphQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, MongoDB, Redis, Prisma, Firebase (Firestore, Cloud Functions, Auth), OAuth, JWT, Auth0, Docker, CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Terraform, Linux Administration

Systems Architecture, Software Design, Git, GitHub, GitLab, Jira, Agile, Scrum, Kanban, Lean Six Sigma, Continuous Improvement, VS Code, Figma, Slack, Notion, Linear, Jest, Vitest, Pytest, Playwright, Puppeteer, Automated Testing (Unit, Integration, E2E), TDD
