

James Christensen

INNOVATION & APPLIED TECHNOLOGY · APPLIED AI ·
DATABASE PLATFORM

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Green Bay engineer who builds applied-AI products end to end and runs database platforms at enterprise scale. Co-founder of clrframe, an AI documentation platform taken from first commit to a live, enterprise-grade product with pilot users in under five months. At a Fortune 100 insurer I led the innovation program that made PostgreSQL and Aurora standard enterprise platforms — framing the problem, proving it with POCs, then building the tooling and department-wide enablement behind 400+ managed instances. Equally comfortable on either side of the business/technical translation.

CORE SKILLS

Innovation & facilitation — innovation programs, POC-to-production, problem framing, requirements analysis, workshop facilitation, hackathon leadership

Databases & vector search — PostgreSQL, pgvector, Aurora, RDS, SQL, HNSW indexing, hybrid search (FTS + RRF)

Applied AI & retrieval — Amazon Bedrock, RAG pipelines, embeddings, hybrid search, agent tool use, prompt engineering

Product & cloud — AWS CDK, Lambda, Step Functions, Angular/Node.js, Python, GitHub Actions, CI/CD, observability

VENTURES & APPLIED AI

clrframe — co-founder & engineer

Apr 2026 — Present · clrframe.com

Registered business, live with pilot users. An AI documentation platform for operations-heavy companies: record a narrated walkthrough and clrframe transcribes it, extracts the steps, and drafts a documented procedure with cited sources — the knowledge in a senior operator's head becomes a document nobody had to write. Files, photos, and video land in one searchable library, embedded into PostgreSQL with pgvector and retrieved by fusing full-text and vector search with Reciprocal Rank Fusion. Built to enterprise standards from day one: ~50 Lambdas across 13 nested CDK stacks in three AWS accounts, per-tenant isolation, and 98%+ enforced backend coverage.

pgvector RAG Demo — open source teaching tool

github.com/Jtchristensen/pgvectordemo

A one-command demo built to make embeddings legible to non-specialists in a workshop setting: chunks embed live into Postgres, 1024-dimensional vectors project onto a 2D plot, and the chunks used to answer a question light up. Runs fully local via Docker Model Runner — no API keys or cloud spend, so anyone can follow along on their own laptop.

ClaimLens — enterprise hackathon finalist

Nationwide

Co-led a cross-functional team to a finalist finish out of 160: historical claims vectorized into Postgres so a claim number, or a plain-language scenario, returns the most similar past cases — replacing hours of manual research.

INNOVATION & ENABLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Led a Tiger Team** chartered to decide the enterprise's long-term relational database strategy — drove alignment across technology teams, turned an ambiguous mandate into a clear problem statement, and made Postgres and Aurora standard platforms.
- **Founded and ran a department-wide Postgres Book Club** — a recurring facilitated working session that brought Oracle and SQL Server DBAs across the organization onto PostgreSQL, building the internal capability the platform strategy depended on.
- **Voted lead of the Automation Guild Pilot Hackathon**, and presented automation results to Nationwide leadership — translating engineering work into outcomes a business audience could act on.
- **Delivered technical POCs across AWS data services** and shipped the ones that proved out — including OpenSearch and Neptune CDK constructs — carrying ideas from prototype to supported enterprise product.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Nationwide Insurance · Jun 2020 — Present

Consultant Database Platform Engineer

Feb 2026 — Present

Specialist Database Platform Engineer · promoted Feb 2026

Jan 2025 — Feb 2026

- Designed and implemented the RDS PostgreSQL and Aurora CDK construct with IAM-based automation for schema and role creation — elevating PostgreSQL to a first-class managed service and making Aurora supported for the first time.
- Support 400+ RDS instances with per-instance CloudWatch alarms integrated with BigPanda to auto-create ServiceNow incidents for the Postgres support team.
- Built the PostgreSQL role and schema automation tool, replacing legacy manual processes and accelerating database onboarding for every team.
- Migrated repositories from Concourse to GitHub Actions, driving department-wide adoption of standardized CI/CD pipelines and training teams on the practice.

Specialist Software Engineer

Jan 2023 — Jan 2025

- Led the production support team to operational excellence through automation — significantly reduced errors and delivered the period with zero P0 incidents.
- Built an Angular site on the GitHub API so teams could see how projects impact each line of business, plus a Power BI dashboard that let business users prioritize defects from data.
- Implemented Concourse pull request checks and a SOAPUI testing pipeline that automated regression across multiple lines of business.

Senior Software Engineer

Feb 2022 — Jan 2023

- Took over as Lead of the ODM production support area and led the team that moved monitoring and observability onto BigPanda.
- Reduced production support resourcing by 50% through automation, including a Concourse pipeline that ran ODM regression tests and reported progress to the team.
- Generated Jenkins, Artifactory, and Harness pipelines to automate deployments, and safeguarded the integrity of the production deployment process.

Software Engineer

Jun 2021 — Feb 2022

- Cut the test case repository by 40% with automated cleanup scripting, and flagged repository cases with invalid, database-blocked policy numbers.
- Initiated a Jira↔GitHub bot that moved cards and associated pull requests automatically, and found and fixed ODM defects that had gone undetected for years.

Intern

Jun 2020 — Jun 2021

- Completed the volume of work normally achieved by a full-time associate, part-time.

CLIENT WORK & EDUCATION

VanderLeest Trailer Sales — solo client build

NE Wisconsin

Replaced a Wisconsin dealership's WordPress site with an Angular app and admin CMS so the owner runs inventory himself, plus a Bedrock sales assistant that tool-calls live DynamoDB inventory. Delivered solo, discovery through deployment.

University of Iowa — BS, Computer Science

2021

Iowa City, IA · GPA 3.21