

Trent McNitt

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SUMMARY

Full-Stack AI Engineer with 10+ years of software product development experience across web, mobile, and cloud platforms. Ships end-to-end production applications. Builds agentic AI systems. Microsoft, Anthropic, and Scrum certified.

Primary tech stack: Claude Code, TypeScript, C#, Python, AI APIs, React, Next.js, and Node.js.

Built and shipped a multi-platform full-stack open-source AI task management app (OpenTask, demo at opentask.mcnitt.io) for web, iOS, and Apple Watch; an AI-powered VS Code extension (Bespoke AI) with a 5-star Marketplace rating; and a Claude Code developer tool (cc-notifier, 90+ GitHub stars) — all in a few months — built on a decade of product development across desktop, mobile, web, and cloud platforms. See github.com/trentmcnitt for details.

Strong instincts for user experience, software architecture, and AI system design. Comfortable with ambiguity, competing priorities, and delivering without hand-holding. Adapts quickly to development workflows.

Worked one-on-one with Klein Tools' Co-President through multiple product development cycles as the lead engineer, translating leadership vision into launched products, and reducing engineering timelines by months. Resolved bottlenecks before they caused delays, managed project scope, and maintained open communication with internal and external stakeholders to keep development on track.

Available for: full-stack engineering, AI engineering, project leadership, and AI training for teams.

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Full-Stack Developer

McNitt, LLC

August 2016 - Present, Brookfield, WI

Independent software product development practice

- Developed 6+ end-to-end products across mobile, web, real-time, social, and gaming — including two cross-platform social apps (React Native/Expo, Flutter, Firebase, Express, Auth0, multi-environment Terraform), a gamified creator donation platform, a Unity/C# mobile game, a custom website builder, and a white-label iOS app SaaS for small business marketing.
- Engineered hybrid-retrieval RAG system — SQLite vector database with FTS5 keyword search and vector similarity search fused into a single ranked result set, indexing content from X, YouTube, Reddit, Discord, blogs, and books for use as agentic context.
- Contributed to the open-source community — three developer tools released since Fall 2025 alone, including cc-notifier (90+ GitHub stars) and Bespoke AI (5-star VS Code Marketplace rating), used by the Claude Code community.
- Gained proficiency with multiple ticket and project-management systems, including Atlassian Jira, GitHub Issues, Monday.com, Notion, and Linear.
- Built browser automation and data collection pipelines in Python using Playwright and Puppeteer, feeding structured content into AI workflows and the RAG retrieval system.

Design Engineer & Lean Business Systems Engineer

Klein Tools

August 2011 - August 2016, Lincolnshire, IL

\$350M+ professional hand tool manufacturer

- Primary engineer for the Heavy Infrastructure division, working one-on-one with Co-President Tom Klein, Jr.
 - Coordinated cross-functional product launches across engineering, marketing, manufacturing, and suppliers — running phone-based supplier negotiations, managing development schedules, and shuffling logistics to hit timelines.
 - Reduced prototyping turnaround from 3 months to 4 weeks by negotiating supplier lead times and prioritizing speed over marginal cost savings, independently applying the company's \$65K/day late-project cost framework.
 - Led 6 new products from concept through manufacturing launch, after initial tenure implementing Lean Six Sigma and Kanban practices across business operations.
 - Resolved manufacturing and quality issues across 15 new and legacy product lines, redesigning engineering specs and manufacturing processes as needed.
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PROJECT

OpenTask — AI-Powered Task Management Platform

McNitt, LLC • opentask.mcnitt.io • January 2026 - Present

- Engineered 4 integrated AI features: natural language task parsing, priority scoring, context analysis, and AI classification.
- Architected multi-provider AI system supporting Claude, GPT-4, Grok, local models via Ollama, and Claude Agent SDK.
- Built 136-scenario AI quality test suite with LLM-as-judge evaluation and circuit breaker reliability patterns.
- Released open-source native iOS and Apple Watch apps with build-from-source deployment for user privacy.

Bespoke AI — VS Code AI Autocomplete Extension

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

- Built AI autocomplete VS Code extension with Claude Agent SDK support for significant cost savings — 5-star Marketplace rating.
- Supports 6 AI providers (Claude, GPT-4, Grok, Gemini, OpenRouter, Ollama) with smart code vs. writing detection.
- Engineered shared subprocess pooling system enabling multiple VS Code windows to reuse AI backends via IPC.
- Quality-tested against 88 real-world scenarios across 11+ models. Cross-platform: macOS, Linux, Windows.

cc-notifier — Claude Code Notification Tool

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

- Released open-source developer tool for Anthropic's Claude Code CLI, earning 90+ GitHub stars from the Claude Code community.
- Built smart notification system using Claude Code hooks and OS integration that returns 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

AI Fluency: Framework & Foundations, Teaching AI Fluency

Anthropic • 2026

Claude Code in Action

Anthropic • 2026

SKILLS

Claude Code, Anthropic Claude API, OpenAI API, GPT-4, MCP (Model Context Protocol), Prompt Engineering, AI Agents, AI Tool Use, RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation), Vector Databases, AI Workflow Automation, LLM Evaluation, n8n

React, Next.js, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Tailwind CSS, iOS (Swift), 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

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
