

# ALEX TONG

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Full-stack software engineer building platform infrastructure and developer tooling — high-leverage systems that multiply team output. Recent work: AI-assisted rule migration tooling, cross-team architectural patterns, and company-wide Claude Code plugins adopted as an NYT AI Champion.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Software Engineer — *Access, Messaging & Multimodal* at The New York Times

October 2023 - Present

- Built an AI-assisted rule migration script (~6K LOC of Go, solo) that became the foundation for the team's current production migration workflow, on top of a cross-brand single-source-of-truth (SSOT) refactor I authored across News, Cooking, and The Athletic; cut per-rule migration time from days to hours and put a multi-quarter rewrite originally scoped as a year+ effort on track to finish in a fraction of that window.
- Authored Claude Code plugins adopted company-wide as an NYT AI Super Champion and second-most prolific contributor to the internal Claude Code plugin marketplace, including `nyt-workspace` (multi-repo shared context) and `claude-md-audit` (CLAUDE.md auditing) shipped live under my own plugin namespace, plus prototypes for Google Docs read-through and team knowledge capture.
- Delivered three internal talks on agentic engineering: *Decomposing Large Problems with Claude* (co-presented with a Senior Director and a Staff Engineer) and *Executing Large-Scale Migrations & Refactors* (co-presented with two Staff Engineers; covered the Meter migration script) at the Claude Code rollout, and *The Definitive Guide to CLAUDE.md* (co-presented with a Principal Engineer) at EngX '26 (~500 engineers).
- Authored a lattice-merge rules-engine design proposal (inspired by AWS IAM / XACML combining algorithms) as a formal alternative to first-hit decision-tree for the Meter Rules Rewrite; the shipped design adopted the per-user-type bucketing pattern from my proposal, and I adapted the full design for sibling team OMA, where it's now under consideration for their message-selection rewrite.
- Owned end-to-end Statsig integration for NYT's paywall experimentation platform (9 Go PRs, ~7K LOC) with privacy-safe user IDs, deterministic request-level override precedence, and BigQuery exposure logging; the architecture doc became the reference three partner teams built their own Statsig integrations against.
- Led Spelling Bee's paywall migration onto NYT's shared Onsite Messaging platform across three milestones (web → app webview → full app) in an unfamiliar Elixir codebase, coordinating across Games, OMA, Meter, and ALTA teams; generalized anonymous-subscriber support into a reusable array-configurable pattern, cutting campaign lead time from days to hours and shifting future launches from engineering to marketing.
- Designed event schemas and idempotent impression tracking for Cooking regiwall surfaces (user-offer-session IDs), increasing experimentation throughput on that surface from 2-3 tests/quarter to 15+/quarter.
- Built shared end-screen subscription units for 8 NYT Games titles (Wordle, Connections, and 6 others), replacing per-game congrats logic with declarative campaign configs and reusable React components; cut A/B experiment setup from 2 days to 2 hours and freed ~4 engineering-weeks/quarter.
- Sustained technical partnership across 15+ engineers through 466 code reviews over 32 months at NYT; mentored 3 college interns (2 hired full-time) and 2 Associate Software Engineers.

### Full-Stack Software Engineer — vMOX

May 2023 - October 2023

- Shipped cost-optimization features in a monolithic platform used by 200+ enterprises, reducing mobile inventory management time by 18%.

### Back-end Software Development Engineer I — *Alexa News* at Amazon

September 2021 - January 2023

- Owned a production metrics and alerting platform (AWS CDK + TypeScript) that surfaced KPIs in CloudWatch/Grafana and orchestrated Redshift pipelines across 100+ tables via EventBridge for real-time anomaly detection, protecting ~\$32M in ad revenue (2022).
- Led expansion of a North America-only reporting service into Europe/Asia by onboarding 20+ providers; re-architected the Java service for geo-aware data access, cutting query latency 11x and driving \$2M+ in new revenue; authored the launch playbook and operational runbooks.
- Built a Python remediation tool to lock down public S3 buckets by routing access through authenticated CloudFront, eliminating security risk without disrupting internal workflows.

## FEATURED PROJECTS

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### noteworthy

[alextong.me/webdev-solo/noteworthy](https://alextong.me/webdev-solo/noteworthy)

- Full-stack note-taking app with real-time autosave and secure authentication — Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL, React, Redux.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Languages:** Go, TypeScript, Python, JavaScript, Ruby, Java
- **Frameworks:** React, Next.js, Node.js, Flask, Ruby on Rails
- **Cloud & Data:** AWS (CDK, EventBridge, Redshift, CloudFront, S3), GCP, BigQuery, Kubernetes, PostgreSQL
- **Tools:** Claude Code, Statsig, Datadog, Grafana

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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Software Engineering Immersive — App Academy

2020