

# Evan Sims

Experienced Software Engineering Leader and Developer Advocate

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I am a highly self-motivated, empathetic, and experienced software engineer with a passion for solving deeply technical challenges, and bridging the gap between real people and technology. I have an extensive background in the identity and security domains, with a proven track record of creating engaging technical content, building strong relationships with developers, and driving adoption of security best practices. I excel at translating complex concepts into clear, actionable guidance.

## HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

### InferaDB — *Principal Software Engineer, Chief Technology Officer*

Oct 2025 - Present

Built a completely new and novel approach to fine-grained authorization from the ground up. I've made relationship-based access control (ReBAC) fast and scalable with market-leading performance, and unmatched observability and trustworthiness. A true authorization database in every sense of the word, InferaDB pushes the industry forward by leveraging hardware acceleration, distributed computing, and a decentralized architecture.

- Founded company; built upon my experience building Okta's authorization. Built the first database built and optimized exclusively for handling complex authorization workloads.
- Designed and built a completely novel software architecture and approach toward fine-grain authorization that solves the leading challenges reported by enterprise customers with ReBAC.
- GPU acceleration and distributed compute make even the most complex graph traversal trivial. Decentralized architecture enables high-performance cross-region authorization with high consistency and low latency; in most cases less than 1ms.

*Skills — Product Management, Leadership, Engineering (Rust, Terraform, Golang, TypeScript, Python, Java, .NET, etc.), Generate AI (Security Gateway, MCP, Skills, Integrations)*

### Okta — *Staff Software Engineer*

Jan 2024 - Oct 2025 (~2y)

Founding engineer on Auth0's fine-grained authorization team. Built and maintained the core open source authorization server (OpenFGA), and Auth0's authorization SaaS built on it.

- Brought one of the first Google Zanzibar-inspired ReBAC solutions to market.

## STRENGTHS

- Product and Team Leadership
- Project Management
- Open Source Communities
- Developer Relations/Advocacy
- Public Speaking
- Technical Writing
- Content Creation
- Systems Design
- API Design
- Generative AI

## SKILLS

Excellent communication and writing skills. Highly experienced at translating complex subjects into human-friendly understanding.

Language agnostic: Rust, Golang, TypeScript, Python, Java, .NET, PHP, Ruby, Swift, Objective C, C/C++, etc.

Generative AI, MCPs, RAG

All things IAM, including OAuth 2.0, OpenID Connect, SAML, JWT, PKI, Cryptography, Fine-Grained Authorization

Cloud Infrastructure, including AWS, Cloudflare, Vercel, Azure, and GCP.

DevOps, including Terraform, Helm, Kubernetes, Docker, OpenTelemetry, Grafana, and Prometheus.

Content creation, including video

- Drove security initiatives as the team's security lead; was responsible for securing our customers from supply chain attacks.
- Deeply involved in developer advocacy for the product, and frequently spoke and presented live demos at conferences about it, wrote extensive blog posts, quick starts and documentation, and served as a point of contact for developers seeking assistance in integrating our solution into their applications.

*Skills — Product Management, Leadership, Developer Advocacy, Engineering (Golang, TypeScript, Python, Java, .NET), Generative AI (MCP)*

**Auth0 — Senior Software Engineer**

Oct 2020 - Jan 2024 (~3y)

Early hire for Auth0's Developer Experience team. Designed, built and maintained over 45 open source libraries, each with their own examples, quick starts, and extensive documentation. Constantly worked with enterprise customers to identify pain points in their integration processes, and teach them how to most optimally use the developer tooling our team built.

- Oversaw a golden era of customer satisfaction with Auth0's developer tooling where customer satisfaction with integration solutions peaked.
- Helped establish Auth0's embedded security engineering program, and fostered a security-first culture through extensive cross-team collaboration and running organization-wide education programs.
- Helped lead Auth0 through FedRAMP certification, enabling the company to accept US government contracts.

*Skills — Product Management, Leadership, Developer Advocacy, Engineering (Golang, TypeScript, Python, Java, .NET, PHP, Ruby)*

**Ushahidi — Senior Software Engineer**

One of the first engineers of the widely known non-profit technology group. Built crowdsourcing and real time mapping technology targeting emergency response and aiding first responders to crisis to get the information they needed to save lives. Was notably deployed by the United Nations, Facebook, and Japan during the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

- Helped build the namesake open source Ushahidi platform. Built the cloud deployment strategy and infrastructure for its SaaS offering. Helped build Swiftriver, a social media feed aggregator that enabled journalists to build and monitor "firehouses" of live discourse on the Internet to deeply research topics and collect sources for their reporting.
- Created Ushahidi's OAuth services, Crowdmapped. Was an early partner and worked closely with Facebook to integrate into their OpenGraph technology.

tutorials and presentations, live demos, podcasts, live streams (Twitch, YouTube) and hands-on workshops.

Community building: forums, meet ups, conferences.

**ENDORSEMENTS**

*"Evan is one of those people who was born to do what he does. He is an outstanding developer and I expect great things from him."*

**Juliana Rotich**

Advisory Board, World Bank  
AI Ethics Board Member, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
TED Talk Speaker

*"Having had an opportunity to work with Evan at Ushahidi for several years, I know him to be a dedicated and talented software engineer."*

**David Kobia**

CTO, Trustworthy Engineering Manager, 1886 Ventures  
Director of Software, BRCK  
TED Talk Speaker

*"I worked with Evan for several years building SDKs at Auth0. He is a great engineer, passionate about security and has a deep knowledge. I hope we get the chance to work together again some time."*

**Adam McGrath**

Staff Engineer, Okta

*"Evan is one of the most creative and talented people I have ever known."*

**Jim Weinhart**

Founder, Shipwright Studios

Helped Facebook prototype their crisis response framework (“I’m Okay”) on top of Ushahidi.

- Spoke and gave presentations at a number of conferences about Ushahidi, most memorably Mozfest (Mozilla Festival) London.

*Skills — Product Management, Engineering (TypeScript, Python, PHP), Cloud Infrastructure (AWS)*

## Education

- **University of Advancing Technology** — *B.A. Game Design*  
2003 - 2008 Tempe, Arizona  
Graduated cum laude. Was awarded the Presidential Scholarship.
- **Parkland College** — *Software Engineering*  
2003 Champaign, Illinois  
Pursued a Bachelor's degree in software engineering.
- **Indiana University Bloomington** — *High School*  
2000 - 2002  
From 5th grade onward I was homeschooled. In High School I began

## Certifications

- Google Cybersecurity Specialization
- Ardan Labs: Advanced Golang Concepts
- Ardan Labs: Advanced Golang Engineering
- Ardan Labs: Software Design with Kubernetes 2.0
- Ardan Labs: Practical Go Foundations

## Notable Projects

- **OpenFGA** — an open source Google Zanzibar-inspired relationship-based access control server.
- **Auth0 Developer Tooling** — 45+ open source SDKs and framework and integration libraries that simply developers integrating Auth0's extensive authorization platform into their applications.
- **PSR Discovery** — a suite of libraries that make implementing real “PSR” interfaces trivial for SDK authors. Solves a major pain point for developers in distributing libraries by avoiding introducing hard dependencies and greatly improves end-user experience. Nearly 8 million installs last checked.

*“There is no one I have more faith in to see a venture through to success.”*

**Ryan O’Sullivan**

Senior Director, Analytics & AI, Cymax  
Director, Upstream WOrks  
Senior Director, Rakuten Kobo

*“Evan is one of the most talented software engineers in the business.”*

**Chris Fisher**

Senior Project Manager, Gray  
Senior Project Manager, Samet Corp