

Alex Shaddy

Omaha, NE | alexshaddy (GitHub) | alexshaddy.dev | talexshaddy@gmail.com

Summary

I build systems that make constrained environments perform. Fifteen years of hospitality leadership — apprenticing under James Beard nominees at 16, scaling beverage programs across five restaurants, designing and opening kitchens from the ground up — taught me how to coordinate teams, optimize processes, and deliver under pressure. Fourteen months ago I brought that discipline to software, directing development with Claude Code as my primary implementation partner. I make the architecture decisions, define requirements, review every line of code, and decide what ships. The result: 8 public repositories, 3 published Claude Code plugins on a custom marketplace, a published open-source project management methodology, and a portfolio of tools I conceived, spec'd, and directed to completion. I'm deeply aligned with Anthropic's mission of building beneficial AI — my entire career pivot is built on the conviction that human-AI collaboration, done honestly and transparently, is the future of productive work.

Core Strengths

AI-Augmented Development Direction

Direct daily development across 8 repositories using Claude Code as my primary implementation partner — 14 months full-time, 60–90 hours/week. Define architecture, requirements, and quality standards; Claude Code writes the code. Built a 3-plugin ecosystem (Belfry, Gazette, Sentinel) specifically for the Claude Code platform, published on a custom marketplace (the-grounds). Designed Dev Context Methodology — an open-source project lifecycle framework — and published it as a Claude Code plugin. This is a genuinely emerging discipline, and I've been practicing it longer than almost anyone.

Technical Direction & Architecture Decisions

Choose technology stacks, make build-vs-buy tradeoffs, and define system architecture across projects spanning TypeScript, Rust, Python, and Swift. Selected Tauri 2 over Electron for desktop apps (5MB binary vs. 200MB+). Chose file-system-as-database over SQLite for bidirectional CLI/GUI sync. Identified and replaced an AppleScript bottleneck with compiled Swift, achieving a 200x performance improvement. I can't write Rust from scratch, but I can tell you why Rust is the right choice and review the output critically.

Operational Leadership & Process Design

15 years of progressive leadership — managing teams from 6 to 90, owning P&L across multiple locations, building systems that outlast the people who created them. Created Dev Context Methodology by applying the same process-engineering discipline to software projects.

Product Vision & Creative Direction

Conceived and directed every project in my portfolio — from a 3D knowledge graph with orbital mechanics to a text-to-speech daemon for the CLI. Built a cohesive estate-themed plugin ecosystem for Claude Code: Belfry (calendar/reminders), Gazette (news intelligence), Sentinel (system health). The visual design, UX requirements, feature priorities, and product direction are mine. Claude Code implements; I decide what gets built and why.

Experience

AI-Augmented Development Director

Independent | January 2025 – Present | Omaha, NE

Directing development of open-source tools and infrastructure using Claude Code as implementation partner. Responsible for architecture decisions, product direction, requirements definition, code review, and project management. 60–90 hours/week.

- Designed Dev Context Methodology — a project lifecycle framework with stage gates, sprint tracking, incident logging, and automated metrics. Published as open-source Claude Code plugin
- Directed development of Wardstone, a Tauri 2 desktop dashboard (Rust + React 19). Chose every architectural tradeoff: Tauri over Electron, file-system-as-database, atomic writes, bidirectional sync
- Conceived Cosmic Vault Graph — an Obsidian plugin rendering vault structure as an interactive 3D knowledge graph
- Identified AppleScript performance bottleneck in Belfry calendar plugin and directed rewrite in compiled Swift (200x faster: 20+ seconds → 96ms)
- Built 3-plugin Claude Code ecosystem (Belfry, Gazette, Sentinel) published on custom marketplace (the-grounds)
- Spec'd claude-speaks — a TTS daemon for Claude Code. Debugged 9 critical issues in a single day
- Authored 8 technical blog posts covering systems architecture, debugging post-mortems, AI collaboration frameworks
- Manage Docker-based containerized development environments and GitHub Actions CI/CD pipelines

Chief Operating Partner

Shadderby & Co. (Drunken Cherub) | July 2025 – Present (on hiatus) | Portland, OR

- Produced 3 ticketed events serving ~100 guests at \$80/head, all exceeding profitability targets
- Generated ~\$4,800 direct revenue; 2 additional events funded by angel investor
- Directed AI-powered operational tool development: automated CoGs calculators, ordering pipelines, menu production

Beverage Director (promoted from Bar Manager)

Taita LLC (Ika San / Kaitei) | July 2017 – October 2019 | Omaha, NE

- Directed beverage operations across 5 restaurant locations (~90 staff under direction)
- Increased profitability ~2.5% company-wide through SOPs, batch protocols, and ordering/costing standardization
- Improved employee retention from months-long to years-long tenures

Head Chef

Rathskeller Bier Haus | April 2018 – April 2019 | Omaha, NE

- Engineered hoodless kitchen layout (induction, impingement, filtered exhaust)
- Food sales outgrew projections by ~30% within the first month

Earlier Roles

- **Groundsman**, Safety Orange Tree Care (Portland, 2023–2025)
 - **Mercury** (Omaha, 2016–2018) — Bartender/Chef de Partie
 - **Block 16** (Omaha, 6 years) — Opening crew → Lead Line Cook. Team recognized by Alton Brown
 - **The Boiler Room** (Omaha, ~2009) — Culinary apprentice under James Beard nominees at age 16
-

Projects

Dev Context Methodology — Open-source project lifecycle framework I designed from scratch. Stage gates, sprint tracking, incident logging, cross-project metrics. Published as Claude Code plugin. GitHub: alexshaddy/dev-context-methodology

Wardstone — Desktop PM dashboard I directed: Tauri 2, Rust backend, React 19 frontend. GitHub: alexshaddy/wardstone

Cosmic Vault Graph — 3D knowledge graph for Obsidian I conceived and art-directed. GitHub: alexshaddy/cosmic-vault-graph

Belfry — Apple Calendar/Reminders integration for Claude Code. Part of a 3-plugin ecosystem on a custom marketplace (the-grounds). I identified the performance bottleneck and directed the Swift rewrite (200x faster). GitHub: alexshaddy/belfry

Gazette — AI-powered news intelligence plugin for Claude Code. Provider-agnostic architecture (Claude Code, OpenRouter, Anthropic, Gemini). Swift/Foundation CLI. GitHub: alexshaddy/gazette

Sentinel — System health monitoring plugin for Claude Code. Native macOS APIs (IOKit, SystemConfiguration, Darwin). Swift CLI. GitHub: alexshaddy/sentinel

claude-speaks — TTS daemon for Claude Code. Python, Kokoro-82M, macOS CoreAudio. GitHub: alexshaddy/claude-speaks

Education

University of Nebraska – Lincoln — Political Science & Philosophy, Minor in Finance (3 semesters). ACT: 32.

Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School — Diploma, 2013

Writing

Selected posts from alexshaddy.dev/blog:

- “200x Faster: Replacing AppleScript with Swift EventKit”
 - “Nine Bugs in One Day” — Systems programming post-mortem
 - “From Kitchen to Codebase” — How systems thinking transfers to software
 - “Deeply Embedded Integration” — Framework for cognitive sovereignty with AI
 - “The Case for Anti-Gatekeeping” — Why I build in the open
-

Communities

- Clief Notes (Skool) — AI/dev open knowledge sharing
- The Multiverse School — Open-source AI and development
- 6 active TTRPG tables — Community building through game mastering