

Austin Harshberger

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Summary

Multifaceted self-taught engineer with 10+ years of experience leading product, engineering, and customer support at technical organizations and startups. I enjoy building tools and automated workflows that improve development processes, remove technical barriers, and enable customers to get the most out of complex products.

Experience

Health Protocol Labs, Founder (Jan 2025–current)

- Built automated development pipelines using agentic workflows, constraint engineering, and existing tools that improved software delivery by 2x.
- Wrote, submitted, and got published a patent for privacy-preserving infrastructure in a healthcare context utilizing zero-knowledge proofs.
- Published a research paper on a novel biomimetic protocol focused on decaying tokens and health incentives.

Aleo, Engineering Manager, Technical Operations (August 2023–March 2024)

- Managed the Technical Operations team, overseeing internal tools, data engineering, and developer experience.
- Revamped technical documentation and internal development workflows to improve engineering efficiency.

Aleo, Technical Product Manager (February 2023–August 2023)

- Led pre-launch strategy, support, and tooling for Aleo's core products and served as the internal stakeholder for external partnerships and custody provider integrations.
- Optimized Aleo's Layer-1 blockchain deployment, driving a 3x increase in downloads ahead of mainnet.

Parity Technologies, Technical Program Manager (November 2021–November 2022)

- Managed technical vetting for strategic partnerships, including a new parachain on Polkadot and a \$50M investment deal.
- Launched the \$18M Polkadot Pioneers Prize program to fund zero-knowledge research and hardware acceleration.
- Collaborated externally to develop challenges for the Pioneers Prize and worked with engineering teams to test submissions.

Parity Technologies, Technical Recruiter (May 2021–January 2022)

- Led a strategic hiring campaign that filled critical roles across the company.
- Implemented an internal tool for the recruiting operations team that enhanced recruitment efficiency.

NEAR, Technical Recruiter (October 2020–January 2021)

- Recruited 10+ engineers and two key executive hires (CMO and VP of Product) in five months, helping drive the network launch.

Coinbase, Systems Engineer (December 2019–June 2020)

- Led the design and implementation of an open-source endpoint management service for 5,000+ machines pre-IPO.
- Coordinated with organizations interested in implementing our endpoint management service and helped with integrations.

GitHub, Implementation Engineer (June 2019–October 2019)

- Delivered monthly professional service sessions to engineers at external organizations with cohorts of 15 or more.
- Helped large enterprises migrate from existing version control systems to GitHub by developing custom tools and integration workflows.

GitHub, IT Generalist & IT Operations Engineer (September 2018–August 2019)

- Created internal software tools to streamline endpoint management and IT infrastructure.
- Trained and selected for executive support and external stakeholder issuance, maintaining intellectual property and confidentiality best practices.

IDEO, Learner Support Specialist & Developer (November 2016–January 2018)

- Developed the IDEO U website using JavaScript and Bash.
- Implemented a Python NLP-based chatbot to address FAQs.

Apple, Building Automation Engineer & Various (March 2013–November 2015)

- Built a tool that cut Genius Bar wait times by 15 minutes, earning promotion to Apple HQ, where I developed advanced HVAC control systems.

Links and References

Publications and research

Privacy-Preserving Health Verification System with Incentive Mechanism for Regular Testing

- Type: Patent
- Link: <https://0x42r.io/patents/1.pdf> or <https://patents.google.com/patent/US20250267003A1>

The Autophage Protocol: Metabolic Economics for Decentralized Health

- Type: Research
- Website: <https://autophage.xyz>
- Link: <https://autophage.xyz/paper/litepaper.pdf>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/97115104/autophage-smart-contracts>

Projects

status.health

- Website: <https://status.health>
- Description: Privacy-preserving health and identity verification for enterprise.

attest.ink

- Website: <https://attest.ink>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/97115104/attest.ink>
- Description: Cryptographically verifiable AI attestations.

healthprotocol.network

- Website: <https://healthprotocol.network>
- Description: Privacy-preserving incentives for health actions.

Programs and initiatives

Polkadot Pioneers Prize

- Website: <https://polkadotecosystem.com/club/bounties/pioneers-prize>
- Description: On-chain bounty to fund zero-knowledge research and hardware acceleration.

News and other receipts

Project Liberty and Polkadot

- Link: <https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2022/06/29/meet-frequency-polkadots-new-decentralized-social-media-parachain>
- Description: Decentralized social network launched on Polkadot.

Polkadot invests in Raise via acquisition

- Link: <https://globalfintechseries.com/blockchain/raise-announced-as-payments-provider-for-the-polkadot-mobile-app>
- Description: Strategic acquisition for payment settlement.