

JOHN DURCAN

Senior iOS Engineer | Applied AI Product Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Passionate iOS Engineer with 6+ years of production experience and a distinguished 12-year background as a successful agency founder. Expert in **Swift and SwiftUI**, with a proven track record of leading technical transformations, including the migration from legacy UIKit architectures to SwiftUI at OANDA.

I combine engineering with the mature strategic judgment and resource management skills gained from leading teams of 20+ staff. I am a dedicated individual contributor focused on clean, testable code, and I have shipped six of my own iOS apps to prove it end to end.

I bring hands-on applied AI experience to my iOS engineering methodology; across both frontier and local model stacks, building AI-powered product features, MCP and retrieval workflows, and privacy-conscious local AI systems for real-world use cases.

Strategic Experience (OANDA)

iOS Developer | OANDA (formerly Coinpass)

Oct 2023 – Present

- Led iOS engineering team in migrating flagship crypto trading apps from legacy UIKit to modern SwiftUI architecture.
- Designed and implemented high-performance RESTful networking layer and custom Dependency Injection (DI) container to enhance app scalability and data management efficiency.
- Implemented SwiftLint, created mobile style guide, and optimized Git-flow processes to enforce global code quality standards.
- Promoted technical excellence through structured architecture planning sessions, code reviews, and pair programming.

iOS Developer (Contract)

Jan 2019 – Oct 2023

- Delivered technical fixes, UI/UX enhancements, and search filter optimisations for top UK brands like **Cazoo**, **Oja**, **Glisser**, and **Allplants**.
- Supported App Store submissions and resolved bugs for over 15 international clients, ensuring quality deployments and stable performance.
- Specialised in quickly resolving complex UI bugs and architectural bridge issues within tight deadlines by seamlessly integrating into existing codebases.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- **Languages & Core:** Swift (Expert), Shell Scripting, Basic Objective-C, JavaScript.
- **iOS Frameworks:** SwiftUI (Expert), UIKit, Combine, CoreData, CloudKit, CoreBluetooth, HealthKit, MusicKit, StoreKit, Apple Pay.
- **Architecture & Patterns:** MVVM-C, Clean Architecture, Dependency Injection (DI), Programmatic UI, Concurrency, WebSockets, CI/CD with GH Actions and Fastlane.
- **Integrations:** AWS (Cognito, DynamoDB, EC2), Firebase, AppLovin (AdTech), G-Analytics.
- **Engineering Tools:** SPM, Git/GitKraken, SwiftLint, XCTest, Instruments, Xcode Debugger.
- **Applied AI & LLM Systems:**
 - **Product Integration:** Built AI-powered features for production apps, including content generation workflows in TimerStack and PoeticAI, using OpenAI APIs, structured outputs, and streaming response patterns.
 - **Systems & Tooling:** Hands-on with most AI Platforms + Hugging Face model ecosystems, MCP (Model Context Protocol) design and local model-serving workflows.
 - **Retrieval & Private AI:** Designed local RAG knowledge systems over thousands of sensitive documents and configured locally hosted LLM environments for private network use.
 - **Delivery Approach:** Strong in prompt design, context engineering, model evaluation, and AI-assisted software delivery for rapid prototyping and production implementation.

Prior Technical Experience 1997 – 2006

- **Systems Engineering:** Held technical roles at BBC, PwC, and MTV, focusing on 3rd-line support and application rollout using Windows Batch and Unix Shell scripting.
- **Full-Stack Development:** Freelance LAMP stack developer building web applications and custom payment processing services.

ENTREPRENEURIAL FOUNDATION

Co-Founder & Operations Director

Hotcow Ltd 2006 – 2018

- **Business Growth:** Co-founded and scaled a successful marketing agency, managing a diverse team of 20+ staff and delivering large-scale PR and product campaigns for global brands.
- **Product Strategy:** Directed the development of internal tools and client-facing digital assets, ensuring technical execution was perfectly aligned with high-level business cases.
- **Operational Leadership:** Owned end-to-end resource management, financial planning, and stakeholder engagement, developing the high-level professional maturity required for Senior-level roles.
- **Problem-Solving Culture:** Established a "Nothing is Impossible" engineering culture that I continue to apply to technical challenges today.

PRODUCTS SHIPPED

Six iOS apps designed, built, shipped and maintained solo: engineering, App Store listing, supporting website and support. Four live on the App Store, one in beta, one in review.

TimerStack (Product Owner & Lead Developer)

timerstack.app

- High-Velocity Build: Architected and developed a high-performance routine engine from concept to a working TestFlight beta in seven weeks.
- API Integration: Integrated HealthKit and MusicKit for Apple-native playback, with Live Activities and an Apple Watch companion.
- AI Systems: Built AI workflows for content generation, structured app interactions, and MCP-based tooling extending the product beyond the iOS client.
- Modern Tooling: Leveraged AI-assisted development workflows to accelerate delivery while maintaining code quality.

Aura Pool: Water Care (Product Owner & Lead Developer)

[App Store Link](#)

- Domain Modelling: Built a reactive pool-chemistry engine producing exact dose calculations and safe, ordered treatment plans with wait timers.
- External Data: Integrated weather data to adjust recommendations to conditions, with all readings held on-device.
- Delivery: Shipped to the App Store and maintained through v1.2.1, including a supporting product website.

Bark Back (Product Owner & Lead Developer)

Coming Soon

- Real-Time Audio: Built a low-latency capture, detection and playback loop that answers a dog's bark with its own bark and films the reaction.
- Responsible Design: Designed welfare guardrails into the product: volume ceilings, cooldowns and session limits, with honest reporting on whether the effect holds.

PoeticÁl, Bluetooth Itch and UI Colour Palette Designer

- PoeticÁl: AI poetry generation using the X.AI API for both text and imagery, with CoreData persistence and StoreKit monetisation. Ran the full App Store lifecycle including ASO and Apple Search Ads.
- Bluetooth Itch: A CoreBluetooth diagnostics utility with live signal graphs, haptic radar for locating devices, and alerts on device arrival and departure.
- UI Colour Palette Designer: Generates complete interface palettes in OKLCH, graded live against WCAG contrast and simulated through four kinds of colour vision deficiency.

[App Store Link](#)

[App Store Link](#)

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Open Source Showcase

[GitHub](#)

- SwiftUI demos covering complex animations, MatchedGeometryEffect and custom shape morphing.