



# Paul Denya

## Senior Full Stack Software Engineer

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Senior Software Engineer with 15+ years of experience building and scaling products from concept to acquisition. Specialist in early-stage product development and AI/LLM infrastructure. Early employee (#2) at HelloSign (acquired by Dropbox), startup technical advisor, and proven cross-framework expertise. Strong track record of transforming ambiguous requirements into production-ready solutions with a focus on user experience and product usability.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Senior Software Engineer | Groupthink 2023 - 2025

Full-stack architecture and development of Groupthink's AI-driven meeting platform, significantly contributing to backend (Laravel PHP) and frontend (React/TypeScript/Electron/Swift) development.

- **Pioneered real-time AI meeting notes** delivering live meeting insights while competitors only offer post-meeting summaries.
- **Built real-time audio/video processing** for Windows and macOS, integrating Deepgram transcription and OpenAI APIs
- **Maintained high code quality standards** with engineering team members through extensive code reviews and collaborative engineering practices (870 reviews, 96% PR merge rate)
- **Integrated third-party services** including Google Calendar, Outlook, Slack, and multiple AI providers

### Freelance Engineer | DenyaDev 2018+

Providing AI integration and full-stack development consulting for startups and mid-sized companies, from MVP to production scale.

- **Led technical strategy for startups** - Provided hands-on development and architectural guidance across the full stack (Rails, React, Laravel, iOS), helping early-stage companies build scalable foundations.
- **Delivered AI-powered solutions** - Architected and implemented LLM integrations (OpenAI, Claude, Gemini) and automation systems for clients, focusing on practical business applications over technical complexity.

### Co-founder & Technical Lead | PressFriendly 2013+

Co-founded and architected a profitable PR automation platform that evolved from direct-to-consumer SaaS to specialized agency tooling.

- **Pioneered AI-powered PR matching (2013)** - Built NLP/ML systems to analyze journalist coverage and match pitches with relevant reporters reducing time spent building press lists
- **Built intelligent email infrastructure** - Developed native email integration with read tracking and reply sync, maintaining sender authenticity while providing real-time engagement analytics
- **Created collaborative workflow system** - Enabled PR teams to share campaign visibility, reporter interactions, and press lists through centralized data architecture, eliminating duplicate outreach

- **Achieved profitable scaling** - Evolved technical architecture through strategic pivots, building sustainable business that continues operating without active development

## **Software Engineer | Mattermark (YC S12, Acquired by FullContact) 2017 - 2018**

Full-stack development for business data analytics platform, working across Python, Ruby, and JavaScript codebases at scale. Continued on at FullContact assisting with the transition for several months.

## **Software Engineer | HelloSign (YC W11, Acquired by Dropbox) 2011 - 2013**

Second engineering hire at HelloSign, instrumental in building the core product from early prototype through rapid growth, contributing to the technical foundation that led to successful acquisition.

- **Built core product features** - Developed critical functionality for HelloFax and HelloSign including document processing, signature workflows, and API integrations that effectively scaled
- **Shipped cross-platform applications** - Created browser extensions integrating with Gmail and an iOS mobile app, expanding product reach beyond web platform

## **Lead Software Engineer | Euro RSCG 4D (Havas) 2007 - 2011**

Progressed from junior developer to technical lead at global advertising agency, becoming primary developer for Fortune 500 client campaigns and leading expanded engineering team.

- **Delivered high-stakes client projects** - Built and launched campaign sites for major brands including Exxon, PayPal, Charles Schwab, Dos Equis, and Clearasil, managing tight deadlines tied to TV commercial and advertising campaign launches
- **Scaled engineering capabilities** - Evolved from solo developer to leading growing team, establishing development standards and mentoring engineers while maintaining and contributing to critical projects
- **Architected campaign infrastructure** - Designed systems to handle traffic spikes from national advertising campaigns, ensuring zero downtime during high-visibility launches

## **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE**

- **Languages:** JavaScript, TypeScript, Ruby, PHP, Python, Swift
- **Backend:** Laravel, Ruby on Rails, Django, Node.js, WebSockets, REST APIs
- **Frontend:** React, Next.js, Electron, Responsive Design, HTML5/CSS3
- **AI/ML:** LLM Infrastructure (OpenAI, Claude, Gemini), Prompt Engineering, NLP/ML Pipelines, Deepgram Integration
- **Real-time Systems:** Audio/Video Processing, Live Transcription, WebRTC, Event Streaming
- **Data & Infrastructure:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, Elasticsearch, Vector Databases
- **Cloud & DevOps:** AWS, Docker, CI/CD, Microservices Architecture, Monitoring & Logging
- **UI/Design Tools:** Tailwind, Material UI, Bootstrap, Figma, Adobe Suite