

Dez Calimese — Forward Deployed Engineer

Applied AI • Blockchain • Smart Contract Security

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Summary

Full-stack engineer with 5 years in founding roles at early-stage companies, building and integrating production AI and blockchain systems under ambiguity with no playbook. I've shipped inside other teams' architectures and third-party frameworks: merging code into an open-source AI agent framework, building MCP integrations over a multi-year research corpus, wiring custody and signing infrastructure from external providers into agent workflows, and swapping out entire SDKs mid-build when one broke. My background also includes hands-on smart contract security work, including a formal Solana/Anchor protocol audit, giving me a practitioner's eye for the risk and integration concerns stakeholders raise. I move fast across unfamiliar stacks, work directly with small teams to turn vague problems into working systems, and I'm comfortable being the person who has to make the integration work today.

Key Achievements

- Co-founder of Quincy Labs, an AI and blockchain research collective, building MCP-powered agentic workflows over a 500+ channel, 8-year research base and owning deployment infrastructure across its projects
- Founding Engineer at Omo Protocol, integrating third-party infrastructure (Coinbase MPC Wallets, Lit Protocol threshold cryptography, Hyperliquid's Nucleus SDK) into a working AI agent product, contributing to over \$1M in pre-seed funding
- Merged a multi-chain transactions plugin into ElizaOS, an external open-source AI agent framework, requiring the code to conform to someone else's architecture and pass outside review
- Solo-built and shipped a multimodal AI agent (Tessera) at a live hackathon, migrating rendering libraries and swapping SDKs mid-build to keep the system working under time pressure
- Audited a Solana lending protocol as part of the Rektoff x Solana Foundation Bootcamp, identifying high-severity vulnerabilities and delivering findings with working exploit proofs-of-concept

Technical Skills

- **Languages:** TypeScript, Python, Rust, Solidity, SQL
- **Applied AI & Agent Systems:** MCP (Model Context Protocol), ElizaOS, Gemini API, AI SDK, retrieval over large research corpora, streaming/SSE interfaces, multi-turn agent state
- **Blockchain & Integration:** Coinbase MPC Wallet API, Lit Protocol (threshold cryptography), Hyperliquid Nucleus SDK, ERC4626 vaults, Wagmi, Viem, RPC optimization, transaction simulation
- **Security & Audit:** Foundry fuzz/invariant testing, Slither, threat modeling, Solana/Anchor security review, EVM internals, gas optimization
- **Frontend:** Next.js, React, React Native, TailwindCSS
- **Backend & Infra:** Node.js, Docker, AWS, Linux, Tenderly Virtual Testnets, CI/CD (GitHub Actions)

Experience

Quincy Labs — Founder

08/2018 – Present

Remote

- Co-founded an AI and blockchain research collective and studio building agent-driven products across DeFi, cryptography, and applied AI
- Built MCP (Model Context Protocol) integrations that query and surface insights from a 500+ channel, 8-year research base, powering agentic AI workflows across projects
- Deployed and maintain product infrastructure across the collective: Docker containerization, AWS, and CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions
- Contribute engineering to Emergency Passport (Red Cell Systems), an AI-native app surfacing critical patient context during sickle cell crises; currently leading UI/UX improvements

Omo Protocol — Founding Engineer

11/2023 – 11/2025

Remote

- Integrated Coinbase MPC Wallets and Lit Protocol's threshold cryptography into AI agent infrastructure, enabling agents to execute DeFi strategies across Morpho, Uniswap, and Omo's contracts
- Authored Rust integrations against Hyperliquid's Nucleus SDK, connecting AI agents to on-chain primitives (AMMs, liquid staking, lending) they had no prior interface to
- Built and shipped a multi-chain transactions plugin for ElizaOS, an external open-source AI agent framework, working within its existing architecture and contribution standards until merged
- Contributed to ERC4626 vault infrastructure and a spot/perpetual futures trading platform, working across Solidity, Foundry, Next.js, and TypeScript
- Implemented Tenderly's Virtual Testnet framework, increasing testing efficiency by 50%

Bricks Exchange — Lead Frontend Developer

11/2022 – 11/2024

Remote

- Led a four-person frontend team, coordinating daily with backend engineers, smart contract developers, and security analysts to ship blockchain applications on deadline
- Onboarded and mentored three junior developers through code review, cutting delivery timelines by 25%
- Delivered UI across Next.js, React Native for Web, TypeScript, Wagmi, and Viem under agile sprints (Scrum/Kanban)

Minting Melodies — CTO

08/2022 – 02/2023

Remote

- Owned technology end-to-end for an early-stage startup: smart contracts, landing pages, internal tooling, and test automation, with no existing infrastructure to build from

Selected Project

Tessera — Next.js, Gemini 3.1 Pro, Sigma.js, Supabase

04/2026

Cerebral Valley x Vercel x DeepMind Hackathon, NYC

- Built a solo multimodal AI agent under hackathon time pressure, ingesting URLs, screenshots, YouTube, and live market feeds into an AI-synthesized knowledge graph
- Migrated from react-force-graph-2d to Sigma.js mid-build when the original library couldn't scale past 2,000 nodes
- Swapped the Google AI SDK wrapper for the underlying SDK directly after it broke search grounding, and adapted to breaking API changes in AI SDK v6 in real time

Security Research

MetaLend Security Audit — Rektoff x Solana Foundation Bootcamp Capstone

2026

Full report available upon request

- Audited a Solana lending protocol, identifying high-severity vulnerabilities across oracle integrity, borrow, withdraw, and liquidation instructions
- Delivered findings with working Anchor proofs-of-concept confirming exploitability

Open-Source

ElizaOS Lit Plugin — merged a multi-chain transactions plugin into the ElizaOS framework, adding threshold-cryptography-based key management for AI agents (01/2025)

Security Training

- **Rektoff x Solana Foundation Rust Security Bootcamp** — Solana/Anchor security methodology, capstone lending protocol audit with working PoCs
- **Secureum Smart Contract Security Bootcamp** — Advanced vulnerability patterns, audit methodologies
- **RareSkills Advanced Solidity Bootcamp** — Gas optimization, EVM internals, security patterns