

Patrick Teglia

AI-FIRST DRUPAL ENGINEER · SENIOR IC

Richland, WA · Remote-first
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AI-first Drupal engineer. 17+ years on drupal.org as crashtest_, 35+ years writing software. Creator of **PillarShield**, a live Drupal module and REST API for real-time AI content governance (Vertex AI, Gemini, GCP, Qdrant). Original author of **Fences** and **Key**, standard infrastructure in the Drupal security ecosystem. At Smartsheet, led the Coveo to OpenSearch migration that **retired a seven-figure annual license** with no measurable loss of search quality. Daily user of self-hosted LLMs (Qwen3 35B-A3B on a dual-RTX-3090 rig) and Claude Code as first-class engineering tools.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Founder & Principal Engineer

2025 / Present

PillarPoint Consulting LLC · Richland, WA

- › Built **PillarShield**, an AI-powered content governance platform that inspects CMS content for PII, prohibited terms, tone violations, and hate speech at the publish boundary, with an immutable audit trail aligned to **EU AI Act Article 50(4)** and **NIST AI RMF**.
- › Shipped a **live Drupal module** in the project directory, a **WordPress plugin** (in review), and a **REST API** at `api.pillarshield.co` so any CMS can submit content for AI-driven audit.
- › Architected and operate the real-time governance engine on **GCP Cloud Run** with Vertex AI and Gemini for classification, deterministic rule enforcement, confidence-thresholded AI decisions, and fail-open behavior when the AI layer is unavailable.
- › Built and run a self-hosted AI infrastructure stack: **Qdrant** vector database, custom streaming memory-injection proxy, multi-model orchestration via vLLM, Ollama, and LM Studio across Qwen, MiniMax, and worker models.

Drupal 10/11

Vertex AI

Gemini

GCP Cloud Run

Qdrant

Python

PHP

Sr. Back End Web Engineer II

2019 / 2025

Smartsheet · Bellevue, WA (Remote)

- › Lead backend engineer on Smartsheet's **Drupal-based** marketing, help, and community properties for a global SaaS customer base.
- › Architected enterprise federated search on Coveo across marketing, help, and community properties (index design, query DSL, relevance tuning, search observability).
- › Led the strategic migration from Coveo to **OpenSearch on AWS** end-to-end: cluster design, document mapping, query pipelines, BM25 and function scoring, production cutover. **Retired a seven-figure annual licensing cost** with no measurable degradation in search quality, uptime, or stakeholder satisfaction.
- › Designed and built data pipelines feeding the search index from Salesforce, Cvent, Smartsheet internal APIs, YouTube, Greenhouse, and Vanilla community, with auth, retries, and caching.
- › Modernized legacy PHP integrations into Symfony-based services and cleaner Drupal modules. Mentored junior and mid-level engineers, led code reviews, set integration and observability standards across the web ecosystem.

Drupal 9/10

OpenSearch

Coveo

Symfony

AWS

Salesforce

Cvent

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Drupal Architect / Lead Developer

2014 / 2019

USDA Forest Service (Contract) · Remote

- › Architected a multi-tenant Drupal platform and central installation profile consolidating **120+ independent Forest Service sites** under a cohesive, maintainable core.
- › Led the Drupal 7 to 8 migration for the Forest Service HQ site, including API redesigns and deployment workflow modernization.
- › Designed APIs and integrations for shared taxonomies, user data, and cross-site content. Advised the CIO's office on workflow, testing strategy, and long-term platform evolution.

Software Development Engineer II

2013 / 2014

NBCUniversal · Seattle, WA

- › Built and maintained headless **Drupal CMS services** powering NBCNews.com and Today.com editorial tools.
- › Implemented custom REST endpoints and caching strategies to support millions of daily page requests on AWS infrastructure.

Senior Drupal Engineer · Agency & Consulting

Prior to 2013

Palantir.net · **Lullabot** · **Forum One** · **Commerce Guys** · **Freelance**

Full-stack Drupal development, architecture, and integrations for **Chicago Field Museum**, **Riot Games** (League of Legends timelines and event sites), **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, **Foreign Affairs**, **The King Center**, **Lexar**, **U.S. PIRG**, **Acana Pet Foods**, **Intuit Quickbase**, **Shin-Etsu Silicones** (data-heavy product catalog & search), and the official site for **Lady A** (formerly Lady Antebellum) on Drupal Commerce.

OPEN SOURCE AUTHORSHIP

Fences

AUTHOR

Per-field markup control. Standard infrastructure on a large fraction of production Drupal sites.

Key

AUTHOR

Secure secret management. Foundation for the rest of the Drupal security ecosystem.

PillarShield

AUTHOR · 2025

AI content governance for Drupal. EU AI Act and NIST AI RMF aligned.

AirOps API Integration

CREATOR · 2024

Drupal 10/11. Configurable client wrapping the AirOps REST API with secure key storage and tests.

Drupal core

CONTRIBUTOR

Credited contributor across multiple releases.

Other contrib

MAINTAINER

Views (D7), Encrypt Password, Share Count Statistics, CTools Auto-modal. Themes: PocketT, Ranch, Refresco.

SPEAKING & WRITING

"The Accidental Architect"

2016

DrupalCon, New Orleans

Pacific Northwest Drupal Summit

2024 · 2022 · 2019

Speaker, multiple years (most recently 2024).

"The Drupal Mobile Process"

PRINT

Drupal Watchdog magazine, Vol. 1 Issue 2 (print & e-edition).

DrupalCon attendee since 2009

2009 / present

DC, SF, Chicago, Denver, Portland, Austin, New Orleans, Baltimore, Seattle.

Mentor & reviewer

ONGOING

Listed by multiple contributors on drupal.org. Onboarding, code review, contribution sponsorship.

TOOLBOX

DRUPAL & PHP

Drupal 7 through 11. Custom modules, configuration management, migrations, headless/decoupled. Symfony. PHP 8+. Twig. Composer. Drush.

SEARCH & RETRIEVAL

OpenSearch, Elasticsearch, Coveo. Index design, document mapping, query DSL. BM25 and function scoring. Vector similarity with Qdrant. Hybrid retrieval. Production relevance tuning.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

B.S. equivalent in Computer Science / Software Engineering

SINCE 1989

Extensive professional experience equivalent. Writing software professionally since 1989: first job out of high school at CRI, building HP3000, Visual Basic, and Lotus Notes systems at HP.

CompTIA Security+

CERT

Certified.

AI STACK

Dual RTX 3090 local rig. vLLM, LM Studio, Ollama. Qwen3 35B-A3B (daily). Claude Code (heavy reasoning). Hermes agent. Qdrant. RAG, memory injection, streaming proxies.

CLOUD & PRACTICES

AWS (OpenSearch Service, Lambda, S3, EC2, CloudFront). GCP (Cloud Run, Firestore, Vertex AI). Docker. CI/CD with GitHub Actions. REST, JSON, GraphQL, OAuth2/JWT. Agile/Scrum. Security-conscious development.

