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Instructional designer and AI product builder moving into Developer Relations

SUMMARY

Four years making complex technical material teachable in two regulated fields, tax compliance and healthcare, where accuracy and privacy are non-negotiable. Founder of Budulai, Inc., building a privacy-first AI assistant for iPhone and Mac in Swift on self-hosted language models. I build with the same tools developers use, and I explain them clearly without talking down to anyone.

EXPERIENCE

Novogradac & Company LLP — Multimedia Instructional Designer & Training Specialist

Mar 2025 – Present

- Design compliance training for 2,000+ accounting and tax-credit professionals (LIHTC, NMTC, RETC) in Articulate Storyline and Rise, video, and instructor-led formats.
- Built an interactive CCH Axcess software simulation for New Markets Tax Credit workflows, with a reusable design system, narration scripts, and a build map so later modules stay consistent and fast to produce.
- Created a process for accountant subject-matter experts to record their own software walkthroughs, feeding a planned 10–20 video training series.
- Built tax quality-control training tailored to two audiences with different technical backgrounds, plus Workday onboarding training.
- Started internal automation on my own initiative: a Power Automate proof of concept for CaseWare binder tracking, and a Mac tool that turns screen recordings into Storyline simulation steps (caught 53 of 53 screen changes in testing, nothing leaves the computer).
- Advise coworkers outside the design team on layout, visual hierarchy, and learning design.

Budulai, Inc. — Founder

Mar 2024 – Present

Independent AI product company. I design, build, and run every product myself.

Budulai — private AI assistant for iPhone and Mac (iPhone in App Store review; Mac 1.1.0)

- Built a native SwiftUI iPhone app (~150,000 lines of Swift across 181 files; HealthKit, EventKit, StoreKit 2, App Intents) that runs on self-hosted inference: app → FastAPI server → Cloudflare Tunnel → open Qwen models on Ollama on my own RTX 5090 GPU server. Shipped 52 TestFlight builds; version 1.0 is in App Store review.
- Designed an agent with 90 tools that sends a stable base of 12 and at most 15 per turn, plus an 11-module system prompt and a skill router, so small local models stay accurate and the prompt cache keeps working.
- Made actions fail closed: every command is denied, confirmed with the user, or allowed, on both the server and the Mac, and replies that claim work with no matching tool call are withdrawn.
- Built Budulai for Mac 1.1.0, a signed desktop app (Python, ~56,000 lines) with a ReAct agent loop, chat, Cowork on local files, projects, scheduled tasks, approval gates, a memory system, and connectors for Slack, Discord, Telegram and other messaging channels.
- Integrated ElevenLabs voice, Gmail OAuth, Tavily web search and Firebase sign-in, and wrote the architecture overview, security posture, ops runbook, onboarding guide and a 49-slide new-user course.
- Generated a 1,500+ conversation fine-tuning dataset and experimented with LoRA/QLoRA training on open-weight Qwen models.
- Ran the business side: landing page, a Three.js studio for video ads, trademark filing, EULA, terms of service, and privacy policy.

Hormone Helper — iOS health app (2024 – 2026, discontinued)

- Designed and released a SwiftUI app on the App Store (beta) that helped transgender and non-binary people track hormone therapy, with HealthKit sync, provider-ready PDF reports, and privacy-first handling of health data. Retired in 2026 to focus on Budulai.

Willamette Dental Group — Multimedia Instructional Designer

Jan 2022 – Oct 2023

- Built software simulations and multimedia training in Articulate 360 for a healthcare organization, working with subject-matter experts to make complex processes easy to follow.
- Produced video training: wrote scripts, ran on-camera interviews, and edited and managed multimedia assets.
- Peer-reviewed other designers' courses to raise quality across the team.

Northwest Enforcement, Inc. — Digital Communications Coordinator

May 2021 – Jan 2022

- Raised employee engagement 40% through redesigned internal email campaigns.

- Worked with developers to improve website UI and produced recruitment marketing assets.

Shangri-La Human Services — Employment Specialist

Feb 2020 – Jan 2021

- Designed and delivered workplace-readiness training for adult learners with disabilities, adapting content to different learning needs and communication styles.
- Moved the program to live virtual training on Zoom when COVID hit, keeping learners engaged through the transition.
- Trained, mentored, and evaluated new job coaches so coaching quality stayed consistent.
- Coached employers on communicating effectively with disabled and neurodivergent staff.

Earlier: Brandefined, Brand Manager (2020–2021), Facebook ad strategy for small-business clients.

SKILLS

- **Development:** Swift and SwiftUI (advanced), Python, Apple frameworks, REST APIs, FastAPI, Cloudflare Tunnel, OpenCV, three.js, App Store Connect API, Power Automate
- **AI:** Claude API, OpenAI API, ElevenLabs, Qwen via Ollama, self-hosted inference, prompt architecture, agent tool use, fine-tuning datasets (LoRA/QLoRA)
- **Teaching and content:** Articulate Storyline and Rise, software simulations, video scripting and production, instructor-led training, ADDIE/SAM, LMS administration, working with subject-matter experts

EDUCATION & RECOGNITION

- **BA, Film Studies** — Willamette University, 2019
- Vetted member, Oregon Media Production Association