

# RYAN K. McDONALD

Founder & Senior PM · AI Product Systems · Platform Operations & Infrastructure

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Founder and senior PM who builds AI-native systems before operating on top of them. Designed and trademarked AOSI - Agent Orchestrated Self Improvement®. Built FounderOS, shipped Check-In to production and open-sourced the architecture. Engineering-rooted with enterprise platform PM at Bank of America, Splunk, Yahoo and Disney. I read code, work inside the technical system and hold a patent for Fast Channels delivery architecture.

## SELECTED IMPACT

- **Designed and trademarked AOSI - Agent Orchestrated Self Improvement®.** Built the FounderOS pipeline, shipped Check-In by Ascendvent to production and open-sourced the architecture on GitHub.
- **\$60K/month in coordination overhead removed at Bank of America.** Restructured decision rights across 3 organizations on a stalled SIEM modernization.
- **\$500K in platform funding unlocked at Splunk.** Adoption results made the argument. No business case document required.
- **\$5M in enterprise renewals held at Yahoo Edgecast** through 2 acquisitions. Disney and Discovery on the line. Re-sequenced the roadmap around what customers said in renewal calls.
- **10 weeks to 3 weeks time-to-value at Splunk.** Rebuilt onboarding as a product surface. Same CS team.
- **Patent for Fast Channels delivery architecture.** Competed directly with Yahoo Edgecast's platform. Later became the basis for recruitment there.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Founder & Product Lead Ascendvent

2024 - Present

*Developed AOSI - Agent Orchestrated Self Improvement®, a trademarked AI-native product development methodology. Built the tooling, shipped the first product and open-sourced the architecture.*

- Built FounderOS, an 11-stage AI-gated product development pipeline. Custom MCP server is the core infrastructure layer: preflight validation gates each stage, PRD generation runs a Karpathy-style generate-score-improve loop with Sonnet writing and Haiku scoring, and tooling is public on GitHub.
- Check-In by Ascendvent is live at [checkin.ascendvent.life](#). AI generates personalized client check-ins in the coach's voice and pre-session briefs from client responses. Built with Claude Code, Supabase and Stripe. Pro plan at \$40/month.
- Open-sourced AgentOS and AutoResearch on GitHub. Public proof of agentic architecture judgment.
- Ran 50+ VoC interviews. Killed the original hypothesis when unit economics did not support the model. Pivoted to B2B practitioners after discovery identified operational overhead as the real constraint.
- 62 essays on Signal HoriZon covering operating models, platform operations and AI product delivery.

### Senior Product Manager (Contract) Bank of America via Apex Systems

Oct 2025 - Mar 2026

*Owned program governance and operating model for a SIEM modernization spanning security operations, engineering and compliance across 3 organizations.*

- The program had produced zero detections in 6 months. Restructured decision rights across security ops, engineering and compliance. Removed ~\$60K/month in

## TECHNOLOGIES

### Platforms

Splunk Enterprise Security, Anvilogic, SIEM/SOAR, video streaming (HLS, DASH), ad tech (GAM, Freewheel, Conviva, Nielsen)

### Engineering

Python, SQL, TypeScript, JavaScript, REST API design, Git, AWS

### Observability

Grafana, New Relic, SignalFx, CloudWatch, container orchestration concepts (Kubernetes, Docker)

### AI and Agents

Claude Code, MCP server development (public on GitHub), AgentOS design, RAG orchestration, LLM API integration, agent workflows (n8n)

### Frameworks

OKR systems, SAFe/PI planning, Agile/Scrum, Jira, Confluence

## COMMUNITY & WRITING

Author of [Signal HoriZon](#), 60+ essays on systems thinking, AI workflows and platform operations.

Built and ship [TechYeet Gaming](#), monthly newsletter for the tech and gaming community.

## EDUCATION

### B.S. Computer Science

*Operations Management concentration*  
Clemson University

coordination overhead.

- Separated detection research from production commitments. Once those were decoupled, teams could forecast reliably and commit to a delivery schedule.
- Took the program from no shared plan to a milestone Splunk and Anvilogic migration sequence. All 3 organizations signed off on the same roadmap for the first time.
- Standardized detection onboarding workflows. Reduced rework on the way into production.

## Senior Product Manager

2022 – 2024

### Splunk

*Owned the security content platform within Splunk Enterprise Security. Security content was scattered across multiple locations. Customers were doing detection work in CI/CD pipelines outside the platform.*

- Customer interviews showed the platform was asking customers to adapt their detection workflow to fit our content model. Made the call to flip it. Redirected the roadmap to version control and content management built around how they actually work. 12% adoption lift across 2,000+ enterprise customers.
- Took adoption results directly to leadership instead of writing a business case. The data made the argument. Unlocked \$500K in additional platform funding.
- Converted onboarding from a services handoff into a self-serve product experience. Reduced time-to-value from 10 weeks to 3 with the same CS team.
- Replaced activity-based reporting with activation and retention dashboards so leadership could see real product health.
- Saw the next state of the platform before the market named it: data-driven detection ingestion, bring-your-own-repo, automatic content flow. Proposed the architecture. What I was describing is what Anvilogic does today.

## Senior Technical Product Manager

2021 – 2022

### Yahoo Edgecast

*Owned core streaming product through 2 back-to-back acquisitions (Limelight to Verizon to Yahoo). The company changed hands twice while customer contracts had to hold.*

- Retained \$5M in enterprise renewals including Disney and Discovery. The roadmap had to move around what customers were actually saying in renewal calls, not around what engineering had already started.
- Delivered geo-blocking and live time-shift under hard deadlines during both ownership transitions. The company had every excuse to miss. Contracts stayed intact.
- Customers were cobbling together VOD workarounds to get pause and replay on live streams. Identified that the platform needed native session-based playback to close that gap. Made the call, built it end-to-end. 35% engagement lift within months. That is what the retention commitments were built on.
- Reduced cloud storage costs 18% through session caching. Same experience for the user, fraction of the DVR infrastructure cost.

## Associate Director, Product

2019 – 2021

### Cognizant

*Healthcare population management during COVID across Kaiser Permanente and Abbott BinaxNOW rapid testing. Took over BinaxNOW mid-pilot with scale arriving faster than the platform was ready for.*

- Drove Abbott to ~65% of the U.S. rapid test market at peak by holding verification fidelity over feature velocity on NAVICA. Result records had to be trusted enough for travel, employer return-to-work and school access. That was the call that mattered.
- Scaled BinaxNOW from pilot to 50M tests per month in 6 weeks. That meant

coordinating across manufacturing, supply chain, regulatory compliance and the NAVICA digital health app simultaneously.

- Coached 2 project managers through a pivot into product management. Both took over PM roles. Clients requested their work on follow-on contracts after they brought dev sprints, user discovery and story mapping into engagements that had not seen those practices before.

### **Business Strategy Manager**

2017 - 2019

#### **Accenture Strategy**

- Grew Spectrum AudienceTrak from 100 to 5,000 users in 3 months. The measurement layer had been sitting unused. Persona-based onboarding redesign grounded in customer interviews got it into the hands of the field teams who needed it.
- Launched an AI-driven broadcast outage detection system. Gave operations 72-hour advance warning on incidents that were previously catching them off guard.

### **Technical Product Manager**

2015 - 2017

#### **Disney ESPN**

- Owned video player frameworks across ESPN's web and mobile properties. Started as an A/V engineer. Moved into product as the platform decisions, vendor evaluation and monetization architecture, became mine.
- Led the Flash-to-HTML5 migration. Owned the vendor tradeoffs and architecture decisions. 25% engagement increase and 60% improvement in ad insertion success.
- Built end-to-end delivery measurement across Conviva, Nielsen, Freewheel, GAM, New Relic and SignalFx. First time leadership had unified visibility into player performance, ad delivery and audience behavior across properties.
- Led the ad-tech POCs that shaped ESPN's move to Google Ad Manager. Evaluated vendor tradeoffs, documented the risks and gave leadership a clear basis for the decision.

### **Technical Consultant**

2011 - 2015

#### **Accenture Technology**

*Led enterprise integration architecture and platform modernization for large-scale telecom and media clients.*

- **Designed and patented the Fast Channels delivery architecture** covering core channel delivery and ad insertion. The solution competed directly with Yahoo Edgecast's platform and later became the basis for recruitment there.
- Directed a 25-engineer team. Defined system boundaries, API contracts and dependency sequencing across provisioning, search, monitoring and operations.