

William Birtwell

Engineering leader and founder

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PROFILE

Engineering leader and founder with thirteen years across software engineering, product, and company building. Co-founder and CTO of Meisterwerk (2019-2025), where I built the platform and the engineering organization from first commit through scale - through a seed round, public R&D funding, and a Series A handover.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 -
Berlin

Hosaka Founder & Principal

- Independent technical practice: architecture reviews, technical due diligence, and hands-on delivery for founders and investors.
- AI-native engineering practice: agentic development workflows, MCP servers, and multi-agent LLM pipelines that drive the software-delivery lifecycle.

2019 - 2025
Berlin

Meisterwerk Co-founder & CTO

- Joined the two founders as a consultant in late 2018; signed on as co-founder and CTO in January 2019 and bought in as the company's third shareholder. Field-service management SaaS for craftsman SMBs in the DACH market.
- Rebuilt an agency-built MVP into a platform of ~10 Go/gRPC services with a React PWA and React Native app, on an AWS estate managed entirely as code (~35 Terraform modules, ECS, multi-AZ) - including a zero-downtime production migration to AWS under live load.
- Hired 25-30 engineers over the company's lifetime and led a core team of 10-12; built the engineering operating system: squads and chapters, RFC process, a risk-based QA and release process, salary and career frameworks.
- Technical lead through ~EUR 5.3M in company financing - five rounds from pre-seed to a EUR 2.0M seed led by Speedinvest (2022), where I authored the technical due diligence, plus a EUR 990k IBB ProFIT innovation loan for the R&D program I architected (2021).
- Built the data platform - AWS data lake (Glue, Athena, DMS) and Redshift - with analytics and BI (Superset, Tableau, R Shiny); designed the constraint-based scheduling and scoring engine at the core of the R&D program.
- Owned security and data protection end to end - commissioned the external GDPR/ePrivacy audit and drove the remediation program; stayed nine months past the Series A close to onboard my successor CTO.

2016 - 2020 Stamford, CT	Birtwell Consulting Principal • Software and product development consultancy for startups, running a small distributed engineering team. By 2019, half the roster were engineers who had followed me from Jovio. • Ran delivery for OfficialVisit, a college-recruiting platform - a subcontracted team across 15+ sprints in production, including a database-outage postmortem that hardened the backup pipeline. • Temporary CTO of Trill, a New York travel marketplace, in the run-up to its 2019 acquisition by Lonely Planet - rebuilt the development process, overhauled search, and added OTA integrations. • Other engagements included Cyber Algorithmic, a US cybersecurity consultancy (web presence plus their first product, a React/Node self-assessment tool); a New York urban-analytics startup (a six-source event-data pipeline in Go on AWS); and Meisterwerk, where the 2018 consulting engagement became the co-founder seat.
2016 - 2018 Austin, TX	Jovio Head of Product • Grew the company from 2 to 18 people alongside the CEO; hired and managed the nine-person engineering team across two distributed squads. • Brought outsourced software development in-house within four months; owned product and delivery end to end, from the first infrastructure audit to a live customer pilot.
2014 - 2018 Hartford, CT	Tidy Translation Co-founder • Co-founded an online translation provider for marketing agencies; designed and built the product (AngularJS/Laravel, later React/Node).
2014 New York, NY	Tallan Consultant • Delivered HIPAA X12 EDI and claims systems for Fortune 500 healthcare clients (.NET, BizTalk).
2013 - 2014 Farmington, CT	TRUMPF North America Software Engineer • Built HMI and real-time diagnostics software for industrial CNC laser-cutting systems.
EDUCATION	
2013	University of Connecticut - BSE Computer Science & Engineering; BA German Studies
2012	Universität Heidelberg - German language studies (Deutsch als Fremdsprache)
TECHNICAL & LANGUAGES	
Engineering	Go · TypeScript / React / Node · Python · PostgreSQL · gRPC · AWS (ECS, RDS, S3, Lambda, Glue) · Terraform · Docker · GitLab CI/CD
AI & LLM	Agentic engineering with Claude Code and MCP · autonomous multi-agent SDLC pipelines · MCP server development · retrieval and context-memory systems
Languages	English (native) · German (professional working proficiency)