MICHAEL J. SARGENT

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Senior Software Engineer · Available Immediately

PROFILE

Senior .NET and C# engineer with 26 years delivering production systems across defense, federal, financial, and healthcare sectors. Seeking a full-time senior engineering role where depth of experience and ownership mindset translate directly to team and business impact. Known for getting to results fast: automated a 3-month compliance project in 6 weeks with a smaller team at Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC, designed and built a Git-based source control workflow for custom JavaScript inside a SaaS platform — replacing a UI-dependent process with no change history or peer review — approved by management, and re-engineered loan export middleware at First Franklin using Azure Functions and microservices patterns. I assess the problem, communicate honestly, and deliver.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Languages & Frameworks: C#, .NET Core, .NET 6/8, ASP.NET Core, ASP.NET MVC, SQL, Bash, PowerShell, HTML/CSS

Currently Building: TypeScript, React (production AI portfolio, in progress)

Additional Experience: Python, Ruby on Rails, VB.NET (prior engagements, not recently active)

Cloud & DevOps: Azure DevOps, Azure Functions, Azure Key Vault, Azure Storage, Azure App Service, Azure Static Web Apps, Git, YAML Pipelines, CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Docker

AI-Assisted Development: Claude Code, Anthropic Claude SDK, GitHub Copilot, Microsoft Semantic Kernel -- building and maintaining Lamp Light Labs, with agent CI review, hooks, and a test gate (RAG pipeline, 158 tests, active CI/CD)

Databases: SQL Server 2008–2022, PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite, Oracle, Entity Framework, Entity Framework Core, SQLAlchemy

Integration & Tools: Dynamics 365 CRM, REST/SOAP API design, RabbitMQ, Splunk, Swagger, XrmToolbox

Methods: Agile/Scrum, Kanban, TDD, REST/SOAP API design, Integration Patterns, OOP, Systems Integration, Technical Documentation

Regulated Industries & Compliance: Healthcare (Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC — security audit compliance, evidence collection automation), Federal/Defense (VA benefits systems, U.S. Department of State financial systems, U.S. Army access control), Financial Services (First Franklin consumer lending)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder

Oct 2025 – Present

Lamp Light Labs · Charleston, SC

Built a production AI engineering portfolio to develop fluency in modern AI patterns while seeking a full-time senior engineering role.

- Designed, built, and deployed a job search intelligence tool for my own workflow -- a RAG pipeline that scores my resume against job descriptions to surface the roles I'm most qualified for, using AI-assisted development while owning the architecture, deployment, and operational decisions personally. Integrated Anthropic Claude via native SDK and OpenAI GPT via Microsoft Semantic Kernel.
- Deployed API to Azure App Service with GitHub Actions CI/CD; React/TypeScript frontend (Vite) on Azure Static Web Apps. Live at https://match.lamplightlabs.com.
- The system implements production-grade patterns including multiple auth schemes (JWT Bearer, API Key, Basic Auth, OAuth 2.0 Client Credentials), rate limiting (fixed/sliding window/token bucket), idempotent writes, async background jobs, and API versioning, with 158 automated tests using xUnit, Moq, and WebApplicationFactory.
- Real, hands-on experience directing AI-assisted engineering to a live production outcome, still building deeper fluency in the underlying implementation as I extend it.

Senior Software Engineer

Feb 2023 – Mar 2026

First Franklin Financial Corporation (via Find Great People) · Remote — Contract

Contract engagement supporting a Loan Origination System for a consumer lending company operating across multiple states. Roughly the first year focused on the engineering initiatives below; for the remaining two years, moved to the Power BI reporting team at company request.

- Designed and built a Git-based source control workflow for custom JavaScript living inside MeridianLink's DecisionLender SaaS platform — replacing a UI-dependent process with no change history, no peer review, and no automation testing. Used the DecisionLender API to extract code into a local Git repo, enabled branch-based development in VS Code, and tied PRs to Kanban tickets for traceability. Approved by management.
- Re-engineered middleware automating Real Estate loan exports between the Loan Origination and Loan Servicing systems using Azure Functions, Key Vault, Storage Tables, and Git Actions — applying microservices

patterns to replace a fully manual process. Authored developer documentation for the solution deployed as an Azure Static Web App via MkDocs.

- Implemented API versioning across ASP.NET Core APIs and Swagger documentation; built a portable Windows Service routing customer statements to vendor SFTP and customer portal.
- Over the final two years, led Git-based source-control adoption for the Power BI reporting team and refactored 30+ stored procedures from cursor-based to set-based logic — using Datadog to isolate bottlenecks, cutting runtime 60-80% and dropping one job from 6+ hours to under 30 minutes.
- Independently built the Python/SQLAlchemy QA process that validated a SQL Server to Snowflake data migration, with validation scripts and Snowflake UI query verification.

Senior Software Developer

May 2022 – Feb 2023

Veterans Health Administration via Booz Allen Hamilton (Revolutions Technologies/Thunderyard) · Remote — Contract

Back-end developer on a 30+ person Agile program modernizing the VA's Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System for veteran travel reimbursement claims.

- Built Dynamics 365 CRM plugins in C# integrating external APIs to automate adjudication of travel reimbursement claims submitted by veterans and caregivers.
- Wrote unit and integration tests using MSTest, NUnit, Moq, and SoapUI under TDD disciplines; deployed via XrmToolbox and Azure DevOps pipelines.

Senior Software Developer

Oct 2020 – May 2022

Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina (via Trident Solutions) · Remote — Contract

Brought onto a 3-person team to automate compliance evidence collection for a major security audit. Original estimate: 3 developers, 3 months.

- Delivered the full system to production in 6 weeks with 2.5 developers — Python 3.8 Windows Service using SQLAlchemy ORM, asyncio, and chrono-based scheduling.
- Built Splunk SPL dashboards giving real-time visibility into 150 assessors' evidence collection; automated email reports for stakeholders without Splunk access.

Senior Software Engineer

Nov 2018 – Oct 2020

U.S. Department of State — Global Financial Services (via SOS International) · Charleston, SC — Contract

Embedded engineer supporting financial systems handling payroll, accounting, and currency exchange for U.S. posts in 134+ countries across 180 currencies.

- Automated batch operations and OS-level tasks via PowerShell and BMC Control-M; performed root-cause analysis on production incidents to maintain SLAs.
- Contributed full-stack web development (MVC/MVVM, Entity Framework) and submitted formal Continuous Improvement Action Plans adopted by management.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Field Support Lead / Software Engineer · *Iberon LLC (Army AIE II+ Contract) · June 2015 – Nov 2018*

C# and Ruby on Rails developer on Army automated gate/access control systems. Provided Tier III field support, evaluated third-party SDKs, and built prototype applications to validate integration options at Army installations nationwide.

Lead Software Engineer · *Technology Industries Inc. · Nov 2014 – June 2015*

Solutions manager and lead engineer for FAA and Pentagon identity and access management projects. Built RESTful .NET web services, authored API documentation, and stood up Azure cloud environments for teaming partners.

Senior Software Engineer / Acting Supervisor · *BAE Systems, Charleston, SC · May 1999 – Nov 2014*

15-year career progressing from developer to acting supervisor of a 5-person systems development team. Subject matter expert for software and database development on the Army's Automated Installation Entry (AIE) access control contract. Built custom C4I applications, web portals, reporting systems, and data integration tools. Won the BAE Systems Chairman's Award for Innovation 6 times.

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude · *Limestone College, Gaffney, SC*