

Jesse Mortenson

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Objective

Make excellent contributions. Listen. Improve tools/processes for teammates. Foster collaboration and community. Create genuine value for human beings.

Experience

SAI360 **Senior Director, Data Engineering** **2025 - present**

SAI360 provides tools around governance, risk and compliance. Plural was acquired by SAI360 in late 2025. The team serves both existing customers and the larger company as a data engineering and AI shop. We help customers assess the policymaking landscape across legislative and regulatory data.

Python, Javascript/Typescript, Postgres, Airflow, Data Lake/Warehouse, Terraform, Docker, linux, Google Cloud Platform, Amazon Web Services, Claude, Gemini, OpenCode.

Key Projects

- Proofed tools – DuckDB and SQLMesh - that have become the basis of our data warehouse strategy.
- Technical leadership aligning data delivery and AI insights generation to be consumed by multiple teams
- Infrastructure build and data engineering support for AI team
- Maintain the Open States project, the best open/free collection of data on US federal and state legislation, including web scraper code

Plural **Built a Data & Public Policy Startup** **2018 - 2025**

First employee hire. As the startup grew, went from solo developer to Chief Technology Officer to Chief Data Officer and back to CTO. Fostered a culture of inclusion, respect, collaboration, and best practices. Remote-first team operating with team members across three continents. Helped pitch to investors in order to raise Seed and Series A funding. Built pipelines to deliver constantly changing data, and tooling to handle thorny data quality issues. Wanted a break from management and returned to individual contributor role.

Key Projects

- Hired and managed our engineering team through Series A, establishing culture through tools, documentation, process, automation, 1:1s and retreats.
- Built cloud services using infrastructure-as-code across GCP and AWS
- Solved key data quality bottleneck by building an automated monitoring system
- Solved PDF text processing/extraction challenge to support an important feature
- Provided data tools and access/transparency to our Product team, including non-technical subject matter experts
- Built out initial product offering as a fullstack React/JS web application & data ingestion

(Note: we re-branded the company from Civic Eagle).

Trilogy Education Services **Instructor** **2018**

Taught a six month, full stack developer bootcamp course in partnership with the University of MN. Javascript

Savvysherpa **DevOps Engineer** **2017 - 2018**

Created tools and improved processes for an international development team. Technical leadership in achieving standards compliance and security in the cloud. AWS, GCP, linux, Windows

Origin Eight **Senior Developer** **2015 - 2017**

Delivered a wide range of solutions to clients, from rescuing old codebases to creating new functionality from wireframes. Drupal CMS/PHP. Worked remotely, sometimes client-facing.

Headwaters Software **Senior Developer** **2012 - 2015**

Developed fullstack software features to improve core products (www.fisdap.net), both back-end logic and front-end interfaces. Performed duties as primary systems administrator during most of the period. PHP, JS, MySQL, linux.

Supernova Design **Co-Owner, Lead Developer** **2001 - 2011**

Built and managed a successful boutique web development company. Specialized in the Drupal CMS, delivering numerous custom interfaces, modules and integration of third party data and services for small- and medium-sized clients, both for-profit, non-profit, and political.

(Note: we re-named the company in 2008 from IDC WebDev, LLC).

Education

Macalester College 2001 - 2005

Bachelor's degree in Sociology, minor in Media Studies.