

Charlie Dorsey

AI-Native Operator • Evals, Systems & Product

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PROFILE

AI-native product/operator who builds instruments that force uncertainty into the system rather than hiding it. The work separates source from inference, proposal from proof, confidence from authority, and heavy analysis from lightweight deployment; nulls, baselines, retractions, and failure states are first-class outcomes. Recent systems span signal-detection evals, governed falsification, dimensional routing, interactive residual analysis, and compiler/codegen work — grounded by enterprise product ownership across a \$10M+ ARR portfolio spanning 12+ products.

77-item signal-detection eval • 13 → 6 dimensional reader • 20 / 20 heavy ↔ pure routing parity • \$10M+ ARR / 12+ product operating floor

Evaluation & signal detection • Falsification / nulls • Provenance & governed handoff • Dimensional analysis & routing • Human/computation boundaries • Compiler/codegen • Product judgment

SELECTED AI SYSTEMS & ENGINEERING

OXBOW — Built a governed evidence bundle and falsification system where append-only source stays distinct from rebuildable views, named behavioral patterns face independent nulls and held-out knives, unsupported patterns are quarantined, and specialist exact-byte codecs must beat RAW/LZMA or lose.

The Catch v5 — Built a 77-item operator-detection instrument with cold/primed/insider solvability, measured/reported/adjudicated label provenance, partly-right cases, d-prime / criterion / ROC scoring, and probes that distinguish a new referent from the claim returning as a confident echo.

FirstLight — Built a corpus-derived dimensional reader plus separate advisory router: 13 semantic/structural/move candidate axes are normalized to a common lattice and reduced to 6 by span preservation; live prompts project through the same fitted transforms. Heavy/reference and stdlib-only read paths held 20/20 routing parity.

Residual Lens — Built a self-contained browser instrument mapping up to six scalar dimensions into three opponent channels with null-aware interpolation and palette-invariance controls; human perception gets proposal rights, while promotion requires an exact predicate or measurement.

elm-compress — Built a tiny transform language compiled by Python into paired Rust kernels, with build-time generation plus committed fallback, exact forward/inverse tests, method bakeoffs against STORE/zlib/LZMA, and CI that fails generated-code or public claim drift.

EXPERIENCE

Independent AI Systems & Product Work — Independent • Fort Collins, CO

2025 – Present

- **Verification-first system building.** Build across legal-tech, language learning, AI evaluation, visualization, and developer tooling; use AI for implementation abundance while retaining representation, system boundaries, tests, falsifiers, provenance, selection/adjudication, and release judgment.

- **Keep the work in contact with users.** Rebuilt Matter after practicing-attorney discovery falsified the initial premise; separately built Spanish for Connection on LiveKit/Next.js and took direct school outreach through a board/staff meeting to verbal agreement for a free pilot, which has not yet been executed.

- **Published operating method.** Field Notes on AI Prompting (2026) documents a practical approach to directing AI generation without surrendering human judgment, evidence, or quality control.

Staff Product Manager — PowerSchool · Remote

Aug 2022 – Jun 2025

- **Enterprise operating floor.** Owned product strategy, roadmap, investment sequencing, and outcomes across a \$10M+ ARR portfolio spanning 12+ products; Document Management grew ~20% annually during ownership.
- **Reliability before redesign.** Stopped a funded UX initiative when system health became the higher-value constraint, redirected capacity, and partnered with Engineering to cut 30+ second core loads to ~2 seconds, bring 24+ hour/non-completing document jobs to ~30 minutes for most, and reduce a 1,000+ issue backlog to ~50 in ~3–4 months.
- **Platform and integration judgment.** Owned 8–10 legacy SIS integrations and drove Document Management into PowerHub as an MFE/shared capability spanning authentication, identity, SIS data access, and multi-system workflow boundaries; Engineering owned implementation.
- **Incident evidence over status.** Led product response during a report-card-season SSO P0 involving stale cached current-user data and a 30-minute TTL; followed a hotfix with a known performance tradeoff through resolution rather than treating release as proof.

Lead Product Manager, Fractional — Voyij · Remote

Oct 2023 – Dec 2024

- **Execution bridge.** Diagnosed chronic delivery unpredictability, installed lightweight operating rhythms, translated CEO priorities into scope, and led a full website redesign/rebuild through production go-live.

Product Owner — PowerSchool · Roanoke, VA

Sep 2019 – Aug 2022

- **Mobile + technical product ownership.** Owned the parent-facing Mobile operating surface across weekly Engineering sync, releases, support/OLA, analytics, app-store delivery, incidents, and cross-product integrations; defined a Naviance/SIS integration that removed a delivery dependency through stable deep links.

Project Manager — PowerSchool · Roanoke, VA

Apr 2018 – Sep 2019

- **Enterprise delivery.** Coordinated 30+ concurrent initiatives with executive visibility and supported launches associated with roughly \$5M+ ARR impact.

Investment Associate — Commonwealth Growth Group · Roanoke, VA

Jun 2016 – Feb 2018

- **Investor-side evidence discipline.** Sourced and evaluated 100+ startups, advanced 3 to term sheet, and supported diligence and financial analysis on a \$2M investment.

SKILLS

AI / Evals: signal-detection evaluation · LLM failure analysis · falsifier / null-model design · provenance & governed handoff · confidence / abstention · human-in-the-loop verification · routing / orchestration

Systems: Python · C · Rust · JavaScript / HTML · SQL · Next.js · WebAssembly · REST APIs / OAuth2 · CI · differential / parity testing · compiler / codegen · interactive visualization

Product / Operator: customer discovery · product strategy & roadmap · technical scoping · outcome ownership · platform & integration products · reliability / incident judgment · executive & GTM alignment

EDUCATION & BEYOND

Davidson College — B.A., Political Science | Advanced conversational Spanish | Ultramarathoner — 1,300+ day consecutive running streak