

Jacob Sayles

Vancouver, BC, Canada

jacob@cascadia.design · 604.240.2780 · <https://github.com/jsayles>

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I build the infrastructure that organizations run on, and the communities around it, because I've never treated the two as separate. I've done this work across coworking, commercial real estate, library systems, and community networks. Most recently, as CTO at Floorspace, I owned the architecture and the data layer behind a platform that turned an opaque market into usable, time-aware data. I'm looking for technical leadership roles with mission-driven organizations that understand that technology should serve people, not the other way around.

EXPERIENCE

Fractional Chief Technology Officer

Mar 2021 to May 2026

Floorspace, Vancouver, BC

Led the technology effort behind Flo, Floorspace's deal-management platform for commercial brokers, on Django, PostgreSQL, and PostGIS. Owned the data layer and system architecture for five years.

- Designed the data-acquisition strategy that built a proprietary lease dataset in a market with no public source of truth, combining a structural data-sharing model, deal-cycle-timed collection, and an occupancy-based estimation method, growing it into a substantial dataset of buildings, listings, companies, and verified lease comps.
- Modeled the core domain (buildings, listings, companies, leases, market surveys, deals), including a market as both a place and a moving price, using signed leases as ground truth to judge asking rates against real, time-aware comparables.
- Implemented spatial analytics in PostGIS over building point geometry, including proximity queries such as average rates within a given radius of a building.
- Held the data layer to a standard that let it serve as the system of record behind a later-acquired client application, and exercised engineering judgment on when the platform was sound enough to expose publicly.

Technical Director

Jul 2016 to Present

Cascadia Collaborative Design (formerly Kanawha Design Studio), Vancouver, BC

- Run a consulting practice with Katie Davis providing technology, operations, and design support to people-focused projects and the mission-driven organizations behind them.
- Carry a consistent through-line into every engagement: the technology only matters in service of the people and community it supports.

Co-Founder / Director of Technology

Apr 2007 to Dec 2023

Office Nomads, Seattle, WA

- Co-founded the first coworking space in Seattle and ran it through its closure in late 2023.
- Built the open-source member-management platform (Nadine) and the operational, financial, and IT systems behind the business.

Director of Technology

Mar 2016 to Dec 2018

312 Main / Vancity Community Foundation, Vancouver, BC

- Designed and built every technology system for a 105,000 sq ft social-innovation centre in the former Vancouver Police HQ, from construction through occupancy.
- Delivered the fibre backbone, switching, roughly 1000 ethernet ports, and building-wide wireless, plus access control and security systems.
- Created job descriptions for and hired a four-person technology department.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

- **System Administrator, Open Lunar Foundation, San Francisco, CA (2018 to 2019).** Built a segregated, secure office network and administered GovCloud AWS systems for a non-profit focused on cooperative lunar exploration.
- **Founder / Executive Director, Open Coworking, Seattle, WA (2012 to 2015).** Established the non-profit behind the international Coworking Movement and built its distributed organizational structure and shared community resources.
- **Senior Developer / Technical Lead, Serials Solutions / ProQuest, Seattle, WA (2002 to 2010).** Led a team of Java developers and database engineers building data import and transformation web applications and a high-availability XML search engine.
- **Earlier developer roles** at Clickeats, Healthetech, Wireless Vision (Munich), Usedbooks.com, and Eden Systems (1998 to 2007).

TECHNOLOGIES

Python 3, Django, Django Rest Framework, GeoDjango, Selenium, Coverage.py, PostgreSQL, PostGIS, MySQL, Redis, MARC, llama.cpp and local LLM inference, Docker, Ansible, GitHub Actions, VMware, AWS, GovCloud, Zabbix, Linux (Debian, Ubuntu, Slackware), Apache, Nginx, Tailscale, WireGuard, OpenVPN, pfSense, UniFi, VLANs, Synology NAS, Raspberry Pi, LoRa, MeshCore, Meshtastic, ATProto, Drupal, WordPress, LAMP, Java, J2EE, C++, Git, vi.

VOLUNTEERING AND AFFILIATIONS

- Athletes Village Housing Co-Operative (Board of Directors)
- DWeb YVR / Mesh Curious
- DWeb Camp
- Coworking BC Society (Board of Directors)
- The HiVE Vancouver (Board of Directors)
- Coworking Europe (Keynote Speaker)
- Global Coworking Unconference Conference (US and Canada)
- Seattle Collaborative Space Alliance
- PyCascades Python Conference
- Seattle Mini Maker Faire