NIKITA PODELENKO

Los Angeles, CA (open to SF relocation) ◇ green card holder
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SUMMARY

Voice AI engineer with 15+ years building production backend and distributed systems. At LiveKit I ship low-latency real-time audio infrastructure and take enterprise developers from prototype to production on it. In parallel I run SkipCalls, an AI voice receptionist bootstrapped to 600+ businesses and $10K+ MRR, where I own the realtime speech stack, the API surface, and production reliability.

SKILLS

Languages	Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, Node.js, SQL, React, Next.js, React Native
Realtime & Audio	WebRTC, SIP/VoIP, streaming STT/TTS, barge-in & turn detection, latency budgeting
AI	OpenAI Realtime & Responses APIs, tool calling, agent orchestration, evals, vector search
Backend & APIs	Distributed services, REST/GraphQL/WebSocket API design, NestJS, PostgreSQL, Redis
Infra	AWS, GCP, Kubernetes, Docker, observability, on-call ownership

15 PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Founding Forward Deploy Engineer — Oct 2025 — Present
LiveKit — *Remote*

- **Realtime systems:** Design and debug production realtime voice pipelines on WebRTC and SIP — streaming STT/TTS, turn detection, barge-in, reconnection — tuning end-to-end latency and reliability under real traffic.
- **Developer experience:** Embed with enterprise engineering teams to take voice agents from prototype to launch; feed API friction, failure modes, and missing primitives back into the platform and SDKs.
- **0-to-1:** Built Meet, an internal AI conferencing app on LiveKit Agents and Cloud, owned end to end.

Co-Founder & Technical Founder — Jan 2025 — Present
SkipCalls (CailTech Inc.) — *Remote*

- **Traction:** AI voice receptionist for service businesses, bootstrapped to 600+ paying businesses and $10K+ MRR, roughly 8x MRR growth in H1 2026, with one product/design partner.
- **Sole engineer** on the entire system: Python realtime voice agents, NestJS backend, two React web frontends, React Native mobile app, integration APIs, and infrastructure. Every architecture decision, deploy, and incident is mine.
- **Realtime:** Telephony ingress, streaming speech in/out, 20+ specialized agents, tool calling into CRM/calendar systems, all held to sub-second response targets on live customer calls.
- **Ops & product:** Run it on-call — latency, cost-per-minute, provider failover — and do the technical sales, onboarding, and debugging myself, so API and model decisions are made against what paying users actually hit.

Staff Fullstack Engineer — Nov 2023 — Feb 2025
Arro Financial (FinTech, EdTech) — *Los Angeles, Remote*

- **AI:** Led an LLM assistant with vector search and function calling into core banking flows, improving engagement and cutting overdue bills by 30%.
- **Platform:** Led migration from AWS Lambdas to a NestJS service architecture and shipped Next.js onboarding with Plaid, KYC, and AML, increasing customer acquisition by 20%.

Fullstack Software Engineer — Sept 2015 — Dec 2023 (8 years)
ONMoon LLC (Gaming, FinTech) — *Remote*

- **Scale:** Built high-load distributed backends with TypeScript, Node.js, and PostgreSQL serving 10M+ users, including the back-end for a Chrome extension with 1.5M+ active users.
- **Payments & APIs:** Built SkinPay, a payments platform processing 1.5M+ transactions against 40+ third-party APIs; owned the public partner API and migrated the whole stack to Google Cloud with zero downtime.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Computer Networks Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University 2009 - 2015

PORTFOLIO

More projects and work samples: podelenko.pro