

Ronn Tan

Software Engineer & Founder · AI Products, System Design & Backend Infrastructure

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Software engineer and solo founder with a strong backend and **system design** foundation. Spent **13+ years** architecting distributed systems at PeekYou — a people-search platform handling **hundreds of millions of records** and millions of daily queries. Now building **Appraiso**, an AI-powered iOS app that identifies physical items via camera and returns real-time pricing across 70+ marketplaces. Built and deployed the full product solo on **Railway**, with **Redis + MongoDB** caching, an ML pipeline, and payments.

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Software Engineer

Jun 2025 - Present

Appraiso LLC — New York City

- Designed and shipped **Appraiso** end-to-end: an AI-powered iOS app that identifies physical items via camera and returns real-time pricing from **70+ retail and resale marketplaces**
- Architected a multi-source price estimation engine combining **Gemini API** (vision + language), eBay sold data, retail waterfalls, and outlier-filtered aggregation
- Built a **two-layer Redis + MongoDB caching system** with canonical key matching and vector similarity fallback, enabling sub-second repeat lookups and dramatically reducing LLM API costs
- Implemented **Core ML** for on-device image similarity and Gemini embeddings with vector search for fuzzy title matching across a growing product catalog
- Deployed production **Next.js backend on Railway** with a real-time scraping pipeline using Decodo residential proxies (Chrono24, WatchBox, dealer sites) and Cloudflare R2 storage
- Integrated **StoreKit 2 subscriptions**, RevenueCat, and eBay Partner Network affiliate; completed full App Store submission and review process

Lead / Senior Full Stack Engineer

Apr 2012 - Jan 2026 · 13 yrs 10 mos

PeekYou — New York City

Progressed from Junior Engineer to Lead, owning backend architecture and data systems for a high-scale people-search platform.

- Led a **zero-downtime migration** of PeekYou's entire production platform from on-prem to **AWS** as sole engineer — re-routing live traffic seamlessly and modernizing compute, storage, and CI/CD while reducing infrastructure costs
- Architected data models across **MongoDB and MySQL** supporting hundreds of millions of records and millions of daily queries
- Designed **event-driven queueing and async processing systems** to handle high-throughput data ingestion and search at scale
- Leveraged **AWS Lambda** to offload background workloads and automate large-scale data pipelines, reducing compute costs and latency
- Built real-time APIs, internal tools, and user-facing portals powering search, data aggregation, and dataset management
- Owned production **reliability, performance, and scalability**; partnered with product and business stakeholders to drive technical strategy

SKILLS

Languages

Python, TypeScript, Node.js, Swift, PHP

Frameworks

Next.js, SwiftUI, React, Laravel

Data & Storage

MongoDB, **Redis**, MySQL, Vector Search, Embeddings

Cloud & Infra

AWS (Lambda, EC2, S3), **Railway**, Nginx, Cloudflare, Docker, CI/CD

AI & ML

Gemini API, Core ML, Computer Vision, LLM Integration, Embeddings, Web Scraping

System Design

Distributed Systems, API Design, Caching Strategies, Event-Driven Architecture, Performance Tuning

EDUCATION

CUNY York College

B.S. Computer Science

2010 - 2012

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

Associate's Degree, Computer Science

2008 - 2010

CERTIFICATION

AI-Powered Search with MongoDB Vector Search

MongoDB · Feb 2026

LANGUAGES

Tagalog (Native), English (Fluent)