Lev Eliezer Israel

Player/coach CTO. Founding CTO twice, then twelve years scaling an open platform to 398 million words. Full stack, Kubernetes to agent evals, and teams across two countries.

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EXPERIENCE

Sefaria *New York & Jerusalem*

Nonprofit digital library of Jewish texts. Open source, open data, open API. Volunteer from 2013, then four roles, each a widening of scope: architecture, data, product, technology.

Chief Technology Officer · *2025 – present*

- Lead Engineering, Data and Research, a team of twelve. Accountable for ongoing development and maintenance of the full product suite: web, native mobile, B2C, B2B
- Led engineering and evaluation for the Library Assistant, an AI agent over the full corpus, live for all logged-in users. Guardrail evals keep it grounded in cited sources, out of the role of rabbinic authority, and resistant to antisemitic baiting; coverage evals check that it surfaces the canonical sources
- Built the developer platform. Public API with key registration and rate limiting, MCP server for direct agent access
- Own the AI/ML research agenda: retrieval, embedding models for Rabbinic Hebrew and Aramaic, AI translation pipelines

Chief Product Officer · *2021 – 2025*

- Built and led a combined product and engineering organization of fifteen. Ran development and maintenance across the product suite while setting its direction
- Built strategic plans with the board and executive team
- Ran a RAG beta with Munich's appliedAI Initiative and TUM Venture Labs, 2023–24. Two hundred invited users; query types and user ratings of responses shaped the move from rigid RAG to the agent-based Library Assistant

Chief Data Officer · *2016 – 2021*

- Defined the core canon of Jewish texts needed in English. Led the four-year, $10M licensing and engineering campaign to complete it: copyright cleared work by work, agreements closed with publishers and translation estates, the rest commissioned. Translated text grew 6.3×, 9.3 to 59 million words
- Ran the acquisition and production pipeline that took the Hebrew and Aramaic corpus from 52 to 218 million words by 2021, at peak over a million words a week. Staff and specialist subcontractors; OCR output scored algorithmically and returned for rework until it passed
- Grew the link graph from 700,000 to 2.8 million inter-textual connections by 2021. Three generations of citation resolver, regular expressions to ML. Structural and textual matching
- Led the migration from hand-built servers to CI/CD on Kubernetes in Google Cloud, March 2018
- Commissioned and managed development of the ontology underlying the library's structure

Software Architect · *2014 – 2016*

- Took the founding prototype to production. Rewrote procedural scripts as an object-oriented system with a rigorous object model, and built an ORM layer that put guardrails on schemaless MongoDB

Carta Technology *New York*

Principal, independent consulting practice · *2012 – 2014*

- Cloud architecture, scale and security; GIS and location-based technology; mid-scale e-commerce; analytics; team structure

Abe's Market *Jerusalem*

Founding Chief Technology Officer · *2009 – 2012*

— Built the platform and a five-person engineering team from before launch to past the thousandth vendor and fifty-thousandth shipment. SaaS on AWS from 2009

PresenTense Group *Jerusalem*

Founding Chief Technology Officer · *2007 – 2008*

— Owned technical infrastructure and new-media strategy through the incubator's first year, carrying CFO responsibilities alongside

Unicorn Solutions · IBM *Jerusalem*

Information Modeler to Product Manager, through IBM's acquisition · *2001 – 2007*

— Semantic information models for enterprise clients, product management, and training for teams at Fortune 100 companies. Co-led metadata strategy for IBM globally

State Street Bank *Quincy, MA*

Systems Analyst · *1997 – 1999*

— Deployed and managed Unix and Windows production servers. Built failover and proactive monitoring systems

BOARD

The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development *Jerusalem*

Board of Directors, Chair of Financial Oversight Committee · *2013 – 2017*

TECHNICAL

ENGINEERING Full stack. Python, JavaScript, React, CSS. SQL and NoSQL. Systems and software architecture, data modeling.

INFRASTRUCTURE DevOps on Unix and Linux. Kubernetes and Helm from 2018. Google Cloud, AWS. CI/CD design.

AI Agents and agent evaluation. RAG. Embedding models for Rabbinic Hebrew and Aramaic. AI translation pipelines. MCP servers.

DATA Ontology and semantic modeling. Large-scale open-data publishing. API design, versioning and rate limiting.

PATENTS

US 7,146,399, *Run-time architecture for enterprise integration with transformation generation.* Granted 2006.

US 8,671,121, *Model augmentation in a model-driven application development environment.* Granted 2014.

EDUCATION

Boston University. BA, Computer Science and Philosophy, *Cum Laude*. 1994–1998.

Beit Midrash Har'el, Jerusalem. Rabbinic ordination. 2015.