

Chris Benson

<https://chrisbenson.com/contact> | <https://linkedin.com/in/chrisbenson>

Professional Profile

Chris Benson is currently a *Principal AI & Autonomy Research Engineer* on the *Applied AI Mission Operations* team at the *Lockheed Martin AI Center*, where he holds an active U.S. Department of Defense national security clearance at the *Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI)* level.

He is among the world's foremost experts in fully autonomous agentic UxS swarming with emergent unified embodied intelligence in all domains (robots & drones) and is the author of *The Art of Swarming* (currently querying publishers), written to be the seminal foundational book for the fledgling UxS swarming industry.

Concurrently, Chris cohosts the *Practical AI* podcast, which has a large global audience of AI practitioners, and is among the most popular and longest running AI podcasts in the world.

Previously, he was *Chief Scientist for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning* at *Honeywell SPS* focused on AI-enabled robotics, and before that a founding member of *Accenture's* first client-facing AI consulting team.

Chris spent 17 years prior to that in the digital and marketing technology industry doing simulation, virtual worlds, game development, software development, web & mobile development, deep brand creativity, customer experience (CX), commerce, and enterprise data technology platforms. He was also at AT&T for 3 years at the start of his career where he was a founding member of their very first Internet Services team.

Chris is an experienced keynote speaker known for his expertise, passion, energy, and clarity. He is a seasoned storyteller who delights in captivating his audiences with inspiring narratives and insightful analysis.

He is a husband, father, son, pilot, educator, university advisor, and licensed RVS wildlife rehabilitator.

Specialty Experience

- · Software Development / Programming (~45 years)
- · Artificial Intelligence (~30 years)
- · Simulation / Virtual Worlds / Game Development (~20 years)
- · Robotics (~10 years)

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Career Positions

- *Principal AI & Autonomy Research Engineer*, Lockheed Martin AI Center, 2018 - present
Active U.S. DoD *Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI)* security clearance
- *Cohost*, Practical AI podcast, 2018 - present
- *Chief Scientist of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning*, Honeywell SPS, 2017 - 2018
- *Artificial Intelligence Delivery Manager*, Accenture, 2017
- *Chief Technology Officer*, Luckie & Company, 2015-2017
- *Chief Technology Officer*, Aegis Ventures, 2014 - 2016
- *Software Developer*, Cogent Design, 2012-2014
- *Chief Technology Officer*, Going Interactive, 2010 - 2012
- *Chief Technology Officer*, Maxmedia, 2009
- *Contract CTO*: VideoBomb, CodeGuard, Macquarium, DigitasLBi, The Partnership, McRae, 2007 - 2015
- *Vice President of Technology*, Studiocom (now VML Atlanta within WPP), 2006 - 2007
- *Director of Information Technology*, Lane Company (now RPM Living), 2002 - 2006
- *Consultant / Java Team Leader*, CD Group, 2001 - 2002
- *Consultant / Software Developer*, Intellinet, 2000 - 2001
- *Internet Consultant / Project Manager / Software Developer*, AT&T, 1997 - 2000
- *Orthopedic Technician*, Cryolife, 1991 - 1993

Public Service

- *Licensed RVS Wildlife Rehabilitator*, Animal Institute, 2018 - present
- *Computer Science Capstone Advisor*, Georgia Tech, 2024 - present
- *Computer Science Industry Advisory Board Member*, Georgia State University, 2018 - present
- *Member, Companion Animal Advisory Board*, Georgia Department of Agriculture, 2019 - 2021
- *Organizer & Founder*, Atlanta Deep Learning Meetup, Georgia Tech / ATDC, 2017 - 2020
- *Chairman, Companion Animal Advisory Board*, Georgia Department of Agriculture, 2011 - 2013

Education & Certification

- Stanford University (Coursera) · Machine Learning Certificate, 2016
- Amazon Web Services (AWS) · Certified Solutions Architect, 2015
- Georgia State University · Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance