

Carter Appleton

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I work on technology that empowers people and communities, simplifying complex systems so anyone can use them.

EXPERIENCE

Staff Engineer

2026 – Present

Neynar

- Expanding Clanker to new blockchains and evolving products for emerging US legal frameworks
- Researching the intersection of AI, social, and crypto toward a novel form of social contract

Staff Engineer

2025 – 2026

Farcaster

- Launched funding mechanisms that helped small teams raise capital outside traditional VC

Founding Engineer

2025 – 2026

Clanker

Acquired by Farcaster, then Neynar

- Technical architecture and system design for the full platform
- Rust system for deterministic onchain address generation
- Backend deploying tens of thousands of tokens daily; serving millions of hits/day
- Designed SDK for developers and LLMs — an early AI-native API
- Ran weekly developer office hours; three portfolio companies secured venture funding
- Acquired by Farcaster, then Neynar — continued as core engineer through both transitions

Staff Engineer

2022 – 2025

Goldfinch

- Tech lead for backend and smart contracts; drove technical architecture decisions
- Led engineering of \$30M smart contract system in Solidity, generating 10%+ yield
- Open lending protocol expanding financial access to underserved borrowers globally
- LP solver optimizing portfolios across thousands of performing assets

Engineer → Senior → Staff

2016 – 2021

Airbnb

- Architected and led cross-functional team of 10 building the customer service chatbot
- Chatbot launched two months before COVID and handled 100x surge when all US reservations were canceled
- Built multilingual contact flow and CMS knowledge base for customer support
- Co-invented NLP sentiment analysis system (US Patent US20220405485A1)
- Built taxonomy system to optimize CX agent workflows

VENTURES

Cat Facts — Founder (sold)

2011 – 2017

- The internet-famous Cat Facts texting service
- Tens of thousands of customers and millions of impressions annually
- Automated customer interactions with a custom NLP system before LLMs existed

iOS Developer — Founder

2009 – 2013

- Puzzle games with 100k+ downloads; top app got 30k downloads, primarily in China

ARTICLES & PATENTS

- **US Patent US20220405485A1** — Natural language analysis of user sentiment based on data obtained during user workflow (Airbnb)
- **Next-Gen Crypto UX: How We Made DeFi for the World** — Goldfinch, Medium
- **Tokenized Asset Coalition 2024 Outlook** — RWA.xyz

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University — School of Computer Science

2011 – 2015

Internships: Microsoft (2014, 2013), Motion Math (2012)