

SHEKHAR (SHAKE) DEWAN

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SUMMARY

Organizations that get AI right don't just hire engineers — they need someone who can set the vision, build the team, win the stakeholders, and ship. At Deloitte, that meant scaling a national AI practice to 23 practitioners and contributing to \$10M+ in new contracts. At Paperstack, it meant architecting the data strategy behind a \$10M+ ARR pivot — work whose technical design Google's Director of Research, Peter Norvig, endorsed directly. As a founder, it meant owning the business end-to-end — client relationships, finances, and delivery across 32 engagements. But advising from the outside has a ceiling. I want to build AI that changes how business actually operates — from the inside, at scale. That's what's drawing me to a US-based organization.

Core Expertise: Agentic AI · Multi-Agent Orchestration · RAG · Context Engineering · LLM Fine-tuning · NLP · Computer Vision · MLOps · Vector Databases · Python · LangChain · LangGraph · AWS · GCP

EXPERIENCE

AI Forward · *Founder & CEO* Oct 2022 – Present · Toronto, ON

- Built and led an AI practice from the ground up, overseeing 32 client engagements across fintech, retail, and professional services.
- Directed a team of 6 practitioners and 4 partners to deliver 12+ production AI systems spanning agentic automations, RAG pipelines, and custom LLM applications.
- Architected solutions spanning fintech, retail, and professional services — including real-time analytics platforms, document automation systems, and LLM-powered internal tools.

Multiple Companies · *Fractional CTO* Mar 2025 – Present · Part-time

- Advise multiple early-stage founders on AI architecture, multi-agent system design, and go-to-market strategy as a fractional technical leader.

Deloitte · *AI Consultant* Jun 2021 – Oct 2022 · Toronto, ON

- National Lead for the NLP Center of Excellence, scaling to 23 practitioners in under 18 months — overseeing NLP and conversational AI workstreams.
- Drove \$10M+ in new contract value through pre-sales, solution architecture, and POV demos.
- Built a Python-based MLOps deployment accelerator cutting project delivery timelines by 56%; led national Conversational AI practice.

Paperstack · *Fractional Chief AI Officer* Jun 2021 – Dec 2022 · Toronto, ON

- Served as Paperstack's head of AI, setting strategy and overseeing the real-time data platform that enabled a pivot to \$10M+ ARR — technical design endorsed directly by Google's Director of Research, Peter Norvig.

PFES · *AI Engineer & Consultant* Jan 2021 – Jun 2021 · Fredericton, NB

- Built a computer vision and GIS-based AI model automating forest inventory analysis, reducing processing time by 47%.
- Delivered dashboards and decision support systems adopted by government agencies and industry partners.

Statistics Canada · *Data Scientist (Contract)* Sep 2020 – Dec 2020 · Ottawa, ON

- Built a Python and Flask-based computer vision application for Health Canada's COVID-19 supply chain response, processing financial documents with 92–97% accuracy and producing weekly inventory intelligence for the national effort.

EDUCATION

Mount Allison University · BA (Hons) Computer Science & Mathematics · May 2020

Mount Allison University · BSc Cognitive Science · May 2020

CERTIFICATIONS

Machine Learning Specialization (Stanford) · Data Engineering with GCP (Google) · Deep Learning Specialization (deeplearning.ai) · Lean Six Sigma Black Belt