Stephen J. Barr

AGENTIC AI · AWS COST OPTIMIZATION · TECHNICAL EVANGELISM

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I build agentic AI systems and explain what I learn in public. I run MeshCrawler, an independent AI consultancy, with deep expertise in graph databases, GraphRAG, and computation graphs applied to clinical, financial, and AI domains. Previously, I led agentic AI work as a VP at the Trilogy AI Center of Excellence and was Chief Evangelist at CloudFix, where I spent three years helping engineering and finance teams cut their AWS bills. I am as comfortable building agentic systems as presenting to executives, and I have taught statistics and optimization at university level.

FOCUS AREAS

AGENTIC AI
Multi-agent collaboration, distributed trust systems, agent tooling and runtimes

AWS COST OPTIMIZATION
FinOps practice, automated savings, architecture for cost

CONTENT CREATION
Livestreams, podcasts, technical writing, conference speaking

AWS COMMUNITY
AWS Community Builder for four years

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Lead Consultant · MeshCrawler

2026 – Present

Independent AI consultancy taking organizations from AI strategy to working systems · meshcrawler.com

- Deliver custom implementations of Yesod (yesod.work), my agentic software factory, which runs on cost-efficient models and understands large, complex codebases.
- Build self-hosted and air-gapped solutions for teams whose code and data must stay inside their own environment.

Vice President · Trilogy AI Center of Excellence

Jan 2026 – Nov 2026

Trilogy's hub for turning advanced AI into production results and sharing practical best practices

- Hosted *The AI-First Show* and published hands-on research for practitioners.
- For an AI-forward private equity company, developed best practices and ran internal knowledge-sharing sessions.

Chief Evangelist · CloudFix

Jan 2023 – Dec 2025

Automated AWS cost optimization · Leadership team · previously Principal Cloud Architect & Technical Evangelist

- Public technical voice of CloudFix on finding and safely automating AWS savings.
- Co-hosted 120+ episodes of *AWS Made Easy*, a weekly livestream with founder Rahul Subramaniam; guests included AWS Chief Evangelist Jeff Barr.
- Worked with customers, engineering, and finance to put FinOps into practice.
- Guest on *Screaming in the Cloud* with Corey Quinn and the *DiscoPosse Podcast*.

Chief Technical Evangelist · DevGraph

Feb 2022 – Present

- Technical evangelist for a suite of developer productivity software focused on building with AWS.

AWS Community Builder · Amazon Web Services

4 years

- Selected each year for AWS's invitation-only program recognizing people who share technical knowledge with the builder community.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Managing Director · Vertex Development 2020 – 2022

Independent consultancy in New South Wales, Australia, delivering data science and software engineering.

Senior Software Developer · CancerAid 2021 – 2022

Backend and frontend development for a digital health platform.

Senior Analytics Consultant · MIP 2018 – 2020

Sydney. Applied machine learning to client data to explain underlying business behavior, then built that understanding into their data and reporting infrastructure.

Lead Clinical Data Scientist · Seattle Cancer Care Alliance 2016 – 2018

Clinical Pathways Office. Built software tools, processes, and infrastructure for clinical pathways, including Haskell domain-specific languages modeling patient encounters at a research hospital.

Teaching Assistant · University of Washington, Foster School of Business 2012 – 2015

Lectured, tutored, and graded MBA statistics and optimization courses, mainly for the Technology Management MBA.

Software Test Engineer II · Microsoft 2003 – 2004

Designed and built automated tests of third-party software against Windows service packs and security updates.

Developer & Server/Network Administrator · iNetOffice 2000 – 2003

Bellevue, WA. Wrote Perl for an email hosting startup and ran its Linux servers and network firewalls.

SKILLS

AI & AGENTS	Multi-agent collaboration, distributed trust systems, agentic workflows, agent tooling and runtimes, coding agents, LLM applications
GRAPH	Graph databases, GraphRAG, knowledge graphs, computation graphs
CLOUD	AWS architecture, cost optimization and FinOps, Spark, large-scale data pipelines
MACHINE LEARNING	End-to-end ML pipelines: feature engineering, training, deployment, and model management; statistics; optimization
LANGUAGES	Python, Haskell, R, Perl
CONTENT CREATION	Livestream and podcast hosting, show development, technical writing and research publications, social media, conference speaking, live demos
COMMUNICATION	Executive and customer briefings, translating between engineering and finance, teaching

EDUCATION

Doctoral studies, Operations Management · University of Washington 2012 – 2015

MBA, Finance and Applied Statistics · University of Rochester, Simon Business School 2009 – 2012

B.S., Applied & Computational Mathematical Sciences · University of Washington · Honors, Graduating Senior of the Year 2009

B.S., Economics · University of Washington · Honors 2009