RIDGE GLEATON

Software Engineer | Python, Data Pipelines & AI-Assisted Development

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Software developer with **3+ years** at Booz Allen Hamilton on the VA's Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). Specializes in Python-driven production data analysis, Kafka event pipelines, and full-stack services on Kubernetes. Daily practitioner of agentic, AI-assisted development with Claude Code, Codex, and Copilot, applying it to legacy modernization at work and to **Lazaret**, an open-source AI security gateway.

EXPERIENCE

Booz Allen Hamilton — *Client: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* Remote
Software Developer II Jul 2022 – Present

- Develop on a **3-person** team within a **~40-engineer** program modernizing VBMS, the system of record VA staff use to process **3M+** veterans' disability claims a year
- Root-caused silent production data loss of up to **~100 messages/day** amid **1M+ message** Kafka consumer lag; wrote **Python** scripts that pulled **OpenSearch** data from every pipeline stage and reconciled it against production database queries, isolating the failure to **Kafka** tombstone handling and presenting findings to tech leads that drove the fix
- Modernizing a legacy VA proxy service from **Java 8 to Java 25** and **Spring Boot** using Booz Allen's multi-agent, spec-driven development (SDD) harness, with agents working in phases from spec to tested feature
- Defined and validated Kafka message schemas for stream processors as new topics were onboarded, keeping malformed events from reaching downstream consumers
- Built features for the Collections and Activator **React** micro-frontends used by internal VA staff, and extended the **Express** REST APIs behind them, documented with Swagger/OpenAPI
- Managed service config, Dockerfiles, and environment settings on **Kubernetes**, deployed through **Jenkins** and **Argo CD**; supported production releases on deploy calls, monitoring rollouts with k9s

GEL Laboratories — *Analyst I, environmental testing laboratory (QA/QC, LIMS)* Charleston, SC 2019 – 2022
Savannah River Remediation — *Lab Technician, DOE contractor (Savannah River Site)* Aiken, SC 2017 – 2019

PROJECTS

Lazaret — *Open-source AI write-quarantine for web APIs* demo.gleator.com • github.com/Gleato/lazaret
TypeScript, Cloudflare Workers & Durable Objects, Claude API Oct 2026 – Present

- Built and published on **npm** an edge gateway that holds API writes in a ledger, has a sandboxed **Claude** reviewer vet them for attacks such as **prompt injection**, and commits only approved writes to origin
- Designed the ledger as an **event-sourced** state machine on Durable Objects (SQLite) with compaction, crash recovery, and HMAC-signed idempotent commits; **400+ tests** include proving no write commits twice
- Built a labelled **120-case eval harness**: the latest live run stopped **63/63 attacks** with **0/57 false positives** at ~$2 per 1,000 requests; confirmed verdicts are distilled into backtested gate rules
- Shipped a live demo; a **Playwright** suite queries its production database to prove no attack got in

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages:	Python, Java, TypeScript, JavaScript, SQL
Data & Streaming:	Apache Kafka, OpenSearch, Jupyter Notebooks, schema design & validation
AI & LLMs:	Claude API, LLM evals, prompt-injection defense, Claude Code, Codex, Copilot
Frameworks & APIs:	Spring Boot, React (micro-frontends), Node.js/Express, REST, Swagger/OpenAPI
Cloud & DevOps:	Kubernetes, Docker, Jenkins, Argo CD, k9s, Cloudflare Workers, Git, GitHub

EDUCATION

Western Governors University — *B.S. Computer Science* 2022