

Chad Stauffer

Product Designer · Northern California · Remote

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I've designed software since 2019, mostly for people who use it under pressure: analysts on federal programs, care teams, and anglers on the water. They don't have time to learn a tool, so I design around the decision they need to make next. I was SAIC's first UX hire and built its design function while the AI division grew from 25 to 250+. Since 2025 I've designed and shipped HatchMatch, an AI vision app for fly fishing, from research to the App Store.

Experience

Product Designer, HatchMatch

2025 – Present · hatchmatch.ai · AI fly fishing app for iOS, live on the App Store

- Took one question from the river, which fly to tie on and why, to a live app. About 200 people have used it. A few pay.
- Designed for how sure the model is. Each ID shows the features the model saw and its confidence. When it can't tell, the app says so and asks for another photo, and the angler can rename any fly or retake.
- Fixed the first version by splitting the job. Its recommendations came back with the same size and tip for every fly, so now the model names what it sees and a catalog of real patterns supplies the facts.
- Designed a river card that does the pre-trip legwork in one place: live flow, a wading call from today's water level, the forecast, the latest guide report, and the flies to bring.
- Write the spec, test on my own phone, and decide what ships. Claude Code does most of the implementation in React Native, Node, and Supabase.

Senior Product Designer, SAIC Innovation Factory

2021 – 2025 · Founding UX designer · Remote · AI platforms for DoD, DOJ, and DHS

- Joined as the first UX hire, with no design function, system, or process. Built all three while the division grew from 25 to 250+.
- Led design on Aether, the edge system of the Koverse Data Platform, where every record is locked to the people cleared to see it. Most of the work was subtraction: cutting steps until it matched how analysts already worked. Koverse is still an SAIC product.
- Designed access controls that show what each choice will release before it happens, and a map that marks a site's status without ever plotting where it is.
- Built the Figma design system shared by Tenjin, Advana, and CDM, with usage docs and Storybook.
- Led a three-week DHS prototype of the naturalization journey and walked government evaluators through it live.

Founder, Stauffer Creative

2019 – Present · Freelance, alongside full-time work

- Shipped brand and web for Carebility, Meetn, and other small businesses.

Skills

AI product design: confidence and uncertainty in the interface, vision model UX, showing the model's work, correction and retake flows

High-stakes UX: access and permissions, irreversible decisions, field and federal users, zero to one

Design: Figma, Claude Design, Adobe; design systems with tokens, usage docs, and Storybook

How I build: Claude Code and Codex, with React Native, React, Node, and Supabase

Education

UI/UX Design and Full Stack Developer Certificates, Bethel School of Technology

Bachelor of Music, Humber College