Lee O'Grady

Cloud architect · Product engineer · Founder, NexArch

UK & NZ citizen · right to work in NZ, Australia, UK & Ireland

New Zealand · remote
lee@nexarch.co.nz
leeograd y.cv

PROFILE

I design and build software end to end: cloud architecture on AWS, enterprise integration, and complete products from first sketch to launch. I've run my own software practice for more than 15 years, alongside leading development teams in science and industry.

I like the hard middle of a project, where messy systems, real data and real deadlines meet. My background is unusual: commercial pilot's licence, packhouse engineering, a science institute, and running an import and hire business where I was the one unloading the containers. That means I'm used to work where a mistake has real consequences, and I build accordingly: automated, tested, auditable.

CORE SKILLS

Cloud & architecture
Multi-cloud: AWS (primary), Azure, GCP · AWS serverless (Lambda, API Gateway, Aurora, S3, CloudFront, Cognito, SES) · infrastructure as code (SST, CloudFormation) · Kubernetes & Docker · security and compliance by design (ISO 27001-aligned)

Integration
Boomi · ERP (QAD), e-commerce (Shopify, WooCommerce, Amazon) and 3PL (Mainfreight) · event-driven data pipelines

Product engineering
TypeScript/Node · React/Next.js · PHP · Postgres · native mobile (Swift/iOS, Kotlin/Android) · CI/CD (GitHub Actions, Bitbucket Pipelines)

Applied AI
Building MCP servers that connect AI agents to real systems (energy monitoring, fitness platforms, accounting) · AI in production workflows · computer vision & post-processing · agentic development

Hardware & IoT
RFID location systems · industrial equipment integration (Compac graders and sizers) · IoT sensors and load cells · Arduino and Raspberry Pi · off-grid power systems

Delivery
Certified ScrumMaster · team leadership · requirements & stakeholder consensus · fixed-price and retainer engagements · commercial: MSAs, SOWs, IP licensing and protection

EXPERIENCE

NexArch Ltd

2009 – present

Founder & Principal Consultant · founded 2009 as Sensitive Data Systems Ltd, restructured as NexArch in November 2024

An independent software and cloud consultancy. The practice, clients and work carried straight across. It covers everything from architecture and builds to operations and the running of the business itself.

Comvita (multinational, UMF mānuka honey): integration & cloud partner

2021–22 · Nov 2024 – present · 7+ years with Comvita in total

- Lead integration engineer across ERP (QAD), Shopify, Amazon and 3PL (Mainfreight) flows on Boomi and Azure, including order, invoice, inventory, pricing and work-order interfaces.
- Built internal tools: sales dashboards and upload pipelines, an integration monitoring dashboard, Shopify extensions, and an IoT load-cell data converter.

IIlset (for Warwix): platform rebuild

2026

- Architected and built a greenfield AWS serverless replacement for a legacy Laravel/Node/React event and supplier platform.
- Infrastructure as code (SST), Cognito auth with MFA, Aurora Postgres, SES, CI/CD, and ISO 27001-aligned logging and controls. **1,200+** automated tests.

NZME: publication delivery (iDistribute)

c. 2009 – Nov 2026

- Built and ran the software behind NZME's publication delivery, about **65,000 a week**, for well over a decade. Rebuilt it as iDistribute in 2019, and it ran until it was retired in November 2026.

Startup advisory

ongoing

- Informal adviser to early-stage founders on product architecture, IP licensing and protecting their contracts, so the product they build stays theirs and can scale.

Bateson Trailers NZ

Aug 2021 – Nov 2024

Owner-Operator

- Ran a trailer import business bringing Bateson trailers from the UK. Handled the export and import logistics, customs and biosecurity, sales, servicing and maintenance, and every other part of the business.
- MPI-approved Transitional Facility Operator and Accredited Person: unpacked and cleared containers at our own facility.
- Modernised the business with technology: e-commerce, asset tracking and automated back-office workflows.
- Started a trailer-hire spin-off, using the same asset-tracking and online booking systems.

Farming & rural property company

Feb 2022 – Oct 2024

Director

- Ran a 25 ha farm: sport horses, cattle, haymaking, plant and infrastructure maintenance, plus long-term rental and Airbnb properties on the land. Run alongside Bateson Trailers.

Comvita

Sep 2019 – Aug 2021

Multinational UMF mānuka honey company · Solutions Architect (acting as Enterprise Architect)

- Owned solution and enterprise architecture across ERP (QAD), e-commerce and logistics integration, and set the direction for Comvita's integration platform (Boomi) and Azure cloud.
- Managed an offshore development team, from backlog and design through to delivery.

Plant & Food Research

Jul 2015 – Aug 2019

Agile Software Development Lead (2018–19) · Science Systems Analyst Developer (2015–18)

- Set up and led two Scrum teams (8 developers, internal and external, 2 direct reports) in an organisation that had always worked waterfall, and coached the team as ScrumMaster.
- Architected and ran the move to AWS (Kubernetes, RDS, S3), managed the AWS account, and built the deployment pipeline (Bitbucket, Nexus, Jenkins).
- Made the case for replacing ageing MS Access systems with a PHP API-backed web application, then built it using test-driven development. Integrated it with a Compac fruit grader for data capture at up to **200 records a second**.
- Gained consensus on requirements across 9 scientists, and managed servers across 3 environments.

Eastpack Ltd

2011 – 2013

Kiwifruit packhouse, Bay of Plenty · Line Manager → RFID Manager → Cool-store Manager

- Redesigned the pallet-location RFID hardware on 30 forklifts across 3 sites, taking location accuracy **from 70% to 99.8%**. Added audit trails for forklift movements and driver efficiency.
- Responsible for more than **$30M** of fruit being cooled, QC'd and shipped. Ran day and night forklift teams on a 7,800-pallet store, and used data analysis to track fruit loss.
- Maintained a multimillion-dollar Compac fruit sizer and optimised software for the automated pallet-stacking robots.

PRODUCTS

Reefline

`Live · founder`

Dive-operations SaaS covering bookings, compliance, manifests and gear tracking.

WildPing

`Live · founder`

Backcountry safety: native iOS and Android apps with live tracking over cell or satellite-to-SIM, SOS, watch links and an organisation dashboard. Working with local councils and organisations on rollout.

DropShot

`Partner · operations lead`

Multi-iPhone event capture with AI post-processing on GCP, backed by Apple hardware. Used at Rhythm & Vines 2025 and Six60.

WolfPak

`Retired · co-founder`

Warehouse pick-and-pack SaaS that ran in production for 3 years.

EDUCATION

- Commercial Pilot Licence (NZ)
- Certified ScrumMaster
- PADI Divemaster (professional)
- A-Level Product Design, A grade (UK)

INTERESTS

Multisport and trail running (training for the Coast to Coast), whitewater kayaking, scuba diving, rock climbing, ski touring and mountain biking.

I designed and built my own self-sufficient mobile office: a van with solar and lithium power and full connectivity. I've delivered client work from anywhere in New Zealand for the last couple of years without missing a beat.