Chris Alvarez

I build amazing products and winning companies through design leadership, research, and education

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chrisalvarez.design

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@longlivetheux

I love what I do, so you'll often find me out in the community, mentoring and learning from those who share my passion.

I co-founded RAD Summit (radsummit.co) – a camp-style conference for people who make awesome products.

I also speak at events and like to write when I can find the time.

Derive Systems - Head of UX
Broomfield, CO (07/2017 – Present)

As Head of UX, I am focused on driving meaningful product improvements to all of our products while scaling the design team and its impact within the company. I do this through:

- Listening, first and foremost
- Facilitating internal education and workshops
- Recruiting and hiring amazing design talent
- Research and data-gathering from both internal and external sources
- A deep understanding of the systems and processes that support our products and customers
- Collaboration with marketing, engineering, sales, customer support and other teams
- Continuous improvement and reflection (typically via retrospectives)
- Constantly pushing to include the voice of the customer in everything we do
- Establishing processes and systems that ensure we're delivering the right thing the right way
- Design team leadership and creating space for open/honest feedback

Pivotal (formerly Slice of Lime) - Lead UX Designer
Boulder, CO (09/2012 – 07/2017)

As lead UX designer, I ensured high-quality outcomes for our customers and teams by:

- Collaborating with a variety of clients, from small startups to large, international enterprises
- Pairing directly with developers to implement product features and create agile stories
- Leading client workshops to define business strategy and refine product vision
- Conducting generative + qualitative research to inform product iterations and design direction
- Facilitating modified design sprints to ensure clients have shared ownership in outcomes.
- Guiding project teams to success as a project "anchor" or lead

Consert - Lead UX Developer
San Antonio, TX (09/2011 – 09/2012)

As the first designer at this small startup, I was focused on interaction design, and interface development of a customer-facing electricity consumption dashboard and mobile app.

I value balance and time with my family, with many moments spent outdoors, finding inspiration here in sunny Colorado.

Rationale Digital - Co-Founder / UX Designer + Developer
San Antonio, TX (03/2010 – 09/2011)

My first venture, I was focused on interactive design and development of interactive multimedia campaigns, including a crowdsourced photo-sharing app that appeared on digital billboards all over San Antonio.

The Atkins Group - Interactive Developer
San Antonio, TX (09/2008 – 03/2010)

USAA - Multimedia Developer / Instructional Designer
San Antonio, TX (06/2006 – 09/2008)