

Aw Kai Shin

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Profile

Show me the incentive and I'll show you the outcome, except for when the whole financial system fails. My career sits at the intersection of institutional finance and open protocols, where I've seen firsthand the tradeoffs between top-down control and bottom-up innovation. Who controls the financial rails, and how those rails are built, affects every facet of modern life. My goal is to keep building more equitable rails, and to write honestly about what actually makes finance fairer for everyone.

Career Summary

Mandate, Remote

(Feb 2026 - Current)

Co-Founder & Chief DeFi Officer

- Architect Mandate's agentic finance layer, evolving the agent from direct execution into an intelligence layer that strengthens strategy reliability.
- Built Mandate's DeFi strategy knowledge base, spanning the RAG pipeline and strategy templates that ground the product and its agents in real-time market liquidity data.
- Translate liquidity flows (tokens, RWAs, protocols) and contract risk into simplified DeFi products across Base, Arbitrum, and Robinhood Chain.
- Lead GTM and positioning, including brand voice, competitive strategy, and \$MANDATE tokenomics.

Factor.fi, Remote

(Feb 2024 - Current)

Head Of DeFi

- Defined Factor's integration strategy, determining which DeFi protocols to onboard and how they combine into coherent financial products that support the asset management marketplace.
- Translated financial strategy into technical build specifications, partnering directly with engineering to convert contract-level complexity into simplified DeFi flows for end users, and vice versa.
- Led Factor's product marketing function, directing brand voice and protocol-wide market positioning.

Kyber Network, Singapore

(Feb 2023 - Feb 2024)

Technical Writer

- Owner of [KyberSwap Docs](#) and [KyberSwap Academy - Insights](#), growing organic search traffic to the Docs and Blog by producing content that ranked in the top 10 for DeFi-specific search terms.
- Applied banking-honed financial and organizational judgment to translate protocol mechanics into plain language for product and marketing, keeping messaging accurate without overselling it.
- Reduced business overhead by building internal knowledge management tooling and dashboards that streamlined technical knowledge transfer across teams.
- Presented KyberAI at Token2049.

DBS, Singapore

(Aug 2020 – Jun 2022)

Institutional Banking Group Tech – Blockchain Technical Specialist

- Consult and advise the Capital Markets team in designing and implementing an application supporting the listing of security tokens and client onboarding to the [DBS Digital Exchange](#).
- Industry project covering the delivery of operations console for [Climate Impact X](#) supporting settlement and registrar services for the trading of voluntary carbon credits.
- Managed the full lifecycle of app creation & conducting workshops with relevant stakeholders. Responsibility stretches across business analysis as well as product management.

Blockchain Trainer

- Facilitate multi-day professional course covering key blockchain and cryptocurrency concepts. Focuses on providing professionals the necessary concepts to apply the technology in their work.

IBM, Singapore

(May 2019 – Aug 2020)

IBM Cloud – Application Developer & Blockchain Pre-Sales Consultant

- Delivery of hybrid cloud app solutions for clients revolving around IBM Cloud offerings with a focus on blockchain technologies, specifically the Hyperledger Fabric protocol.
- Collaborate with various teams in order to build and sell customised end-to-end software architecture that best meets the client's business requirements.
- Strong focus on microservice design principles in order to help client's in their journey to cloud.

JLL, Singapore

(Jun 2017 – May 2019)

Integrated Property Services – Business Intelligence Consultant

- Project management and systems design for various software tools (desktop and mobile) focusing on retail network planning, merger and acquisition, and portfolio tracking.
- The main focus of this role was to effectively understand and translate client requirements and business knowledge into technical specifications for software engineers and vice versa.

Selected Writing

- [Why DeFi Still Matters](#) (Mar 2026) - DeFi's structural advantage over TradFi as transaction costs collapse.
- [Curators: Keeping the Kingmakers Accountable & DeFi Permissionless](#) (Jan 2026) - Accountability and risk as curator-managed TVL overtakes decentralised design.
- [The ARB & rETH DeFi Playbooks](#) (Apr - May 2025) - How to combine the various DeFi primitives into different yield products for different token structures.
- [The Web3 Stack: A Conceptual Framework](#) (Jan 2023) - A multi-layered framework that contextualizes each layer of the stack and its importance towards achieving the promises of Web3.
- [The Politics of Web3: Violence, Technology, and Empowerment](#) (Nov 2022) - Technology as inherently political, and why Web3 reconfigures power toward users.
- [Crypto & Private Property: Techno Optimism or Real Progress?](#) (Feb 2025) - Crypto advances the concept of individual private property which shifts a state's social contract.

Media Coverage

- [MONEY FM 89.3](#) (Aug 2022) - Societal impact of blockchain and cryptocurrencies.
- [CNA938 Money Mind](#) (Jul 2022) - Cryptocurrencies as a form of investment.
- [The Straits Times](#) (Sep 2022) - Singapore's crypto scene.
- [e27](#) (Sep 2022) - Blockchain technology beyond cryptocurrency and NFTs.
- [Gradsingapore](#) (Aug 2022) - Blockchain, crypto, and fintech advice for new graduates.
- [Tech Trade Asia](#) (Jul 2022) - Blockchain concepts in the business context.

Freelance Work

- Documentation - [Mirai Labs](#) (Guildtech, Shards), [Harmonix](#), [XOX Labs](#).
- Commissioned Articles - [RockX Babylon BTC Staking](#)

Protocol Contributions

[Ethereum.org](#)

- Shipped 25 merged pull requests to the official Ethereum.org repository over 8 months (Dec 2022 – Aug 2023).
- Restructured the [dapp discovery page](#), adding new Metaverse, Social, and DeFi categories plus 20+ new dapps including Yearn, Lido, and Synthetix.
- Led the site-wide cleanup of EthHub references across a dozen-plus developer docs pages after EthHub's deprecation, migrating content directly into ethereum.org.

[Bancor3](#)

- Tokenomics explainer featured on [Bancor's official docs](#) as a canonical resource.
- Authored an [8-part smart-contract-level code guide](#) series covering Bancor3's entire user lifecycle function-by-function via UML diagrams: token whitelisting, pool creation, BNT and ERC20 deposits, trading, withdrawal requests, and BNT/ERC20 withdrawal claims.
- Broke down the [omnipool redesign](#) driving Bancor3: a single shared liquidity pool replacing paired trading, virtualized reserves, and built-in impermanent loss protection.
- Explained the [single-sided staking](#) mechanics: how LPs deposit one token while BancorDAO co-invests to absorb impermanent loss.
- Analyzed the [governance "voting premium"](#): how the dual-token BNT/vBNT model creates leverage strategies of 9.5x–40.8x, and how the Vortex burn mechanism offsets sell pressure.

Education

University College London

(Sep 2013 – Aug 2016)

BSc Urban Planning & Real Estate 2:1

Awarded **Departmental Prize 2013-14** for being the highest achieving student in the first year of the Bartlett School of Planning BSc programmes

Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

(Jan 2009 – Nov 2012)

International Baccalaureate 2012

Aggregate Score: 37 (PME HL) + 2 (B in Economics Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge) = 39 points

- Attended ACS (Independent) under a **School Based Scholarship**

Certifications

IBM Blockchain Consulting

(May 2019)

- Advise an organization considering adopting blockchain using blockchain principles

Blockchain for Professionals – B9lab

(Nov 2018)

- Understand the technical foundations of public and permissioned blockchain technology
- Assess blockchain protocols and apply theory to use cases and business strategies

Blockchain for Technical Executives and Analysts – B9lab

(Dec 2017)

- Understanding how the technology functions, smart contracts and both the technical and social frameworks related to blockchain technology.
- Covers the major cryptocurrencies and platforms in depth and provides an overview of many other protocols both in public and managed networks.

Ethereum and Solidity: The Complete Developer's Guide – Udemy

(Aug 2018)

- Technologies covered: Solidity, Web3, React Integration

Red Hat Delivery Specialist – Container Platform Deployment

(Jan 2020)

- Describes the technical architecture, OpenShift web console, CI/CD and pipelines using RHOS CP 4
- Deploy and manage applications on RHOS Container Platform using li and YAML manifests
- Common post-installation customization tasks for OpenShift, including authentication, authorization, quotas, and limits

Red Hat Sales Engineer Specialist – Container Platform (OCP 4)

(Jan 2020)

- Describe RHOS, define how industry trends have created a need for RHOS, and describe IT challenges RHOS solves, Identify Prospects, Describe how to position Red Hat portfolio

IBM Cloud Private Infrastructure and Architecture

(May 2019)

- Understand architecture and infrastructure requirements for deploying microservices-based cloud native applications on IBM Cloud Private

The Advanced Web Developer Bootcamp – Udemy

(Apr 2018)

- Technologies covered: React, Redux, D3, ES2015-17, CSS Animations, Advanced JavaScript

The Web Developer Bootcamp – Udemy

(Feb 2018)

- Front-end technologies covered: HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, Bootstrap, jQuery
- Back-end technologies covered: NodeJS, ExpressJS, MongoDB, Authentication & Authorization

Skills

- TypeScript; Solidity; GitBook; Atlassian Confluence & Jira; Notion; Microsoft Office Suite: WordPress