



Ben Pickett

Technology Executive | Keynote Speaker | Co-Founder, Swa-AI



Former Global Director of SRE, Nike
Former Mayor, City of Jefferson, Oregon
Salem, Oregon | Available Nationwide & Internationally

Nike

Global Director, SRE

Swa-AI

Co-Founder & COO

Mayor

City of Jefferson, OR

MBA/TM

AWS · CSM · CSPO

>\$100M

Cumulative Cost Savings Delivered

18d → 39m

Database Refresh Cycle Rebuilt

104K hrs

Manual Work Hours Eliminated

6x

Nike 'Highly Successful' Rating

ABOUT BEN

Ben Pickett is a technology executive, keynote speaker, and Co-Founder & COO of Swa-AI. He spent more than a decade as a senior leader at a Fortune 100 global retailer — most recently as Global Director of Site Reliability Engineering — where his teams managed database, network, cloud, and retail infrastructure across every geography the company operates in globally. During that tenure he delivered cumulative cost savings exceeding \$100 million, rebuilt an 18-day database refresh cycle down to 39 minutes, and eliminated over 100,000 manual work hours through automation.

Prior to his enterprise career, Ben served six years in elected public office — first as a City Councilor (appointed, then elected) and then as Mayor of Jefferson, Oregon. He led the city through significant infrastructure and community improvements without raising taxes. He also served as President of the Oregon Falconers Association, where he led the coalition effort that resulted in the first species downlisting in Oregon history.

Ben co-founded Swa-AI to give enterprises what he never had: a secure, governed, enterprise-grade AI platform that is truly theirs. He holds an MBA with Technology Management concentration, a BSIT, and completed all but his dissertation toward a DMIST doctorate in organizational leadership and information systems. He is AWS Cloud Practitioner certified, a Certified Scrum Master, and a Certified Scrum Product Owner.

01 The AI Reality Check

Why Enterprise AI Initiatives Fail — and What To Do About It

Most AI programs don't fail because the technology is wrong. They fail because the organization isn't ready. This keynote gives audiences a clear-eyed framework for getting AI out of the lab and into production.

C-Suite, Technology Leaders, Digital Transformation Teams | 45–60 min keynote or half-day workshop

02 Reliability Is a Strategy

Building Technology That People Can Actually Count On

Uptime is not a vanity metric. Drawing from maintaining 99.99% uptime at scale, this talk unpacks how the best engineering organizations think about reliability as a business outcome, not a technical checkbox.

Engineering Leaders, DevOps/SRE, Technology Executives | 45–60 min keynote

03 Shadow AI and the Governance Gap

What Your Employees Are Already Doing With AI (Whether You Know It or Not)

The average enterprise employee is using AI tools that IT hasn't approved and security hasn't assessed. This is not a discipline problem. It is a leadership gap. Walk away with a governance framework that works.

CIOs, CISOs, Legal/Compliance, Risk Forums | 30–45 min keynote or executive workshop

04 Technology That Serves People

Lessons from Enterprise Tech and a Term as Mayor

What does it feel like to be responsible for technology that affects thousands of people every day? Drawing on Fortune 100 infrastructure and elected office, this talk explores what leadership really requires.

Mixed Leadership Audiences, MBA Programs, Leadership Conferences | 45–60 min keynote

05 The Platform Trap

Why Enterprise Transformations Stall and How to Break Through

Organizations spend years and hundreds of millions on platform modernization and too often end up with a new version of the same problems. This keynote digs into the real causes and the path forward.

Technology Leaders, Product/Engineering Leadership, Strategy Teams | 45–60 min

SPEAKING FORMATS

Keynote

45–60 minutes

The signature format. Customized for your audience, industry, and event goals.

Workshop

Half-day or Full-day

Working session designed for leadership teams. Deliverable: decisions made, not just discussed.

Fireside Chat

30–45 minutes

Conversational format ideal for executive audiences and high-trust environments.

Virtual Keynote

Any format

Full-production virtual presentations taken as seriously as in-person events.

Executive Roundtable

60–90 minutes

Facilitated discussion for small groups of senior technology and business leaders.

Panel Moderator

60 minutes

Available to moderate panels on enterprise AI, technology leadership, and digital transformation.

LOGISTICS

Location: Based in Salem, Oregon. Available nationwide and internationally.

Lead Time: Typically, 6–12 weeks for keynotes. Shorter timelines considered — reach out.

Customization: Every engagement begins with a call to understand your audience and goals. No generic decks.

A/V Requirements: Standard AV setup. HD slides provided 48 hours in advance. Lavalier mic preferred.

Fee: Fees vary by format, audience size, and travel. Contact for availability and pricing.

BOOK BEN

Website: benpickett.com

Email: ben@benpickett.com

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/benpick](https://www.linkedin.com/in/benpick)

Calendar: cal.com/benpickett/30min— Book a 30-Min Discovery Call