

Justin Gain

Gaming Writer • Creator • Technologist

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Gaming writer, creator, and technologist with experience building independent gaming media, podcasting, and shipping consumer software. Creator of Torchlit Gaming, an independent gaming publication and podcast covering game criticism, history, mechanics, technology, and culture. Developer of SaveCrystal, a shipped iOS gaming library app. Professional background in IT, data, client support, and enterprise systems, with a BS in Information Technology.

TORCHLIT GAMING

Creator, Writer & Host — Independent Gaming Publication and Podcast

torchlitgaming.substack.com

- Founded and operate an independent gaming publication covering game criticism, gaming history, mechanics, technology, and culture across video games, board games, and card games.
- Selected published work: “GameClub: Dragon Quest III HD-2D Remake” (long-form review and systems analysis), “Pokémon TCG Pocket First Look (iOS)” (analysis of collection, progression, monetization, and mobile game design), “D&D and ChatGPT” (first-person feature on AI-assisted tabletop play), and “History of the Nintendo Switch: 2017” (researched historical retrospective).
- Co-produced and hosted 3 podcast episodes, including a technical and legal deep-dive on console emulation, demonstrating research, collaboration, and conversational media production.

SAVECRYSTAL

Independent iOS Developer — Shipped Gaming Product

App Store

- Designed and shipped SaveCrystal, an iOS gaming library and collection-management app that helps players organize and interact with their personal game libraries.
- Built with Swift/SwiftUI; integrated CloudKit for sync, the IGDB API for game metadata, JSON-based backup/export, and usage telemetry.
- Own the full product lifecycle — feature planning, UI/UX, App Store deployment, and ongoing iteration based on real gamer needs.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lincoln Financial — Associate, EDI Onboarding

May 2025 – Present

- Collaborate with engineering teams to troubleshoot integrations and translate business requirements into technical specifications, communicating clearly across technical and non-technical stakeholders.

Alight Solutions — Client File Analyst

July 2022 – May 2025

- Engineered SQL queries to analyze large-scale client datasets and automated recurring reporting, improving accuracy and delivery time.

Barco Inc — Technical Services Specialist

May 2021 – July 2022

- Tracked, troubleshooted, and resolved technical incidents with detailed documentation; consistently ranked Top 3 company-wide for First Resolution Metric (95%+).

National Vision Inc — Employee Development Specialist

May 2007 – May 2021

- 14 years of client-facing communication, training, and cross-functional collaboration, including designing measurable goals and tracking satisfaction improvements.

EDUCATION

Strayer University — B.S., Computer Programming (Information Technology)

March 2026

Magna Cum Laude, 3.875 GPA

SKILLS

Writing & Editorial: Game criticism, long-form reviews, feature writing, research-driven analysis, editing

Media Production: Podcast co-hosting and production, conversational interviewing, publication operations (Substack)

Technical: Swift/SwiftUI, Python, JavaScript, SQL, RESTful APIs, IGDB API, CloudKit

Tools: Git/GitHub, AI-assisted development workflows (Claude, prompt engineering)