



**THE  
SOFTWARE  
"ORACLE"  
OF FREMONT  
COUNTY**

Alexis Lee had always wondered why professionals insisted on living in expensive, congested metropolitan areas—especially for those with clients and/or with corporate offices in other parts of the country or world. The realization that she was one of them struck home back in 2014. “I had lived in Boulder, Colorado for most of my life and graduated from the University of Colorado,” she says. “I had become quite involved in the Humane Society of Boulder County as a volunteer; I created a foster program for anxious and fearful dogs. I had taken care of 60 dogs in four years, and I decided that I needed a little farm or ranch.”

She didn’t need to look very far. “My father attended Florence High School in Fremont County and we visited the area on vacations. I knew the area fit me well.” Alexis found a house outside of Cañon City in Brookside. “I have plenty of space for all of my animals now. It was a great decision.”

## QUICK PIVOT - FROM JOURNALISM TO COMPUTER ENGINEER

Alexis grew up in a family of engineers—her father was one and her brothers followed in his footsteps. She appeared to be the exception, graduating with a degree in journalism and taking a job at Leanin’ Tree Publishing. They had just gotten computer systems and were starting to program them. “It was then that my career shifted from writing to programming,” Alexis quips. After finishing work at Leanin’ Tree Publishing and taking on an assignment at Frontier Airlines, Alexis decided she liked the idea of working on her own and running her own company and founded Lextek, Inc.

Thirty-five years later, Alexis and Lextek are still thriving. The company and she have had many successes—playing a critical role in helping to launch 25 startup companies and numerous products and designing and developing business-critical Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solutions with IP rights owned by Lextek.



"I've had an opportunity to work on some really exciting projects with some fabulous teams over the years," Alexis recounts. "We've also invented solutions such as IP3, a SaaS-based application used by major studios, including Disney, to schedule staffed security for pre-theatrical releases.

While the software was first developed over 17 years ago, it still plays a critical role in helping the studios to protect their intellectual property. Pirated copies of pre-released motion pictures are literally in the billions annually."

## PRESCRIPTION MANAGEMENT SHOWCASED ON CNN

Recently, Alexis has spent a lot of time consulting in the healthcare space. "The healthcare industry has a great need for digital transformation," she says. "There are opportunities to transform how people live their lives with innovative software solutions." While there is a long list of solutions on which Alexis has worked, she cites a couple as particularly compelling.

One was a medical prescription compliance program used to monitor if patients were taking the wrong medication or too much or too little. "Research shows that upwards of half of all medical prescriptions are not followed," Alexis explains. "Upwards of 125,000 deaths each year are premature and the result of the failure of patients to follow their prescriptions."

The solution Alexis helped design and develop consisted of multiple tactics, and was showcased in a Science and Technology segment on CNN. "There was a reactive approach where we knew the dosage

and nurses would call patients to verify they had taken their medication," she explains. "There was a proactive approach where the software drove the dosage schedule and nurses would call the patients to ensure they took it on time. And then there was the automatic approach that embedded Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) on the pill bottle and it would monitor and record when it was opened, and the dosage taken. For instances where potential aberrations appeared, nurses would contact the patients to get them back on schedule."



# CHANGING WITH THE TIMES - THE "ORACLE"

Alexis has witnessed massive digital disruption over the course of her illustrative career. The magnitude of the impact of software in this digital transformation is difficult—if not impossible—to overemphasize. The speed at which software is developed and released today is immensely faster than it was just a few years ago. The traditional waterfall development approach typically saw several major release cycles a year. But with the adoption of Agile and DevOps, release cycles are done several times per week or even per day.

"We previously had a chance to spend a lot more time fine-tuning development timelines and processes," Alexis explains. "But with modern Agile and DevOps, you must be very diligent about how all of the different pieces fit together." For the project with Safe Health Systems, Jim Nasr, the CEO of Acoer, serves as the chief architect. "We're very fortunate to have Jim driving the technology," she continues. "He's helped the team institute a development platform on Amazon Web Services

that leverages the latest in architecture and blockchain technologies that have sped our development cycles and created much greater agility."

**"The ability to buy affordable housing and to walk downstairs or drive a mile or two across town to a tech center to start work could supplant the work-life models of the pre-pandemic world for many. And there are places just like Fremont County all across the country."**

**Alexis Lee, President of Lextek,  
Software Architect, and Product  
Manager**

Having a depth of experience working across a breadth of software engineering processes has been a key to her success. "For the current project, I have been dubbed the 'Oracle' by the team," Alexis jokes. "To be successful in software development, you need to understand as much as possible

about the business and to drive those requirements through specifications with the developers. Being able to help get a team of developers all headed in the same direction, one that solves a critical business need, is the place where I really thrive."

# REMOTE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

With the advent of the COVID-19 lockdowns, software development teams around the world that had previously worked in permanent offices and workspaces surrounded by the rest of their team found themselves working from their home offices. "Working with a team onsite versus one that is remote introduces a different dynamic," Alexis explains. "Having a solid development infrastructure in place is key." This ranges from the ticketing system to the development tools.

Unlike many other software development professionals, the new work-from-home normal has been the "normal" for Alexis for years. "Nearly all of my clients have been out of state, and thus the teams with which I worked were remote," she explains. "Indeed, some of the most unproductive teams with which I have worked were on site. In the case of one client, they had an onsite gym that



they had to shut down because the team was spending too much time playing racquetball and not getting enough work done."

# JOINING FEDC TECHSTART AT ITS LAUNCH

The year before Alexis moved to Fremont County, the Royal Gorge Park and other areas of the county were devastated by a fire. To help rebuild damaged structures and rehabilitate the area, federal and state grants were established. Part of the process included work with the small business community through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Working with the Fremont Economic Development Corporation (FEDC), Alexis established Lextek as a consulting partner for the grant administration. "It was a chance to give back to Fremont County," she says. "We helped secure over a half million dollars in grants—to companies that are thriving today."

"I hired some employees and needed to have a location for them to work," Alexis notes. She attended the annual FEDC banquet when the launch of the TechSTART center was announced.

"It worked out very well to have an office in a great location—a professional center with high-speed internet and conference rooms with presentation and collaboration tools."

**The downtown area in Cañon City is energized while retaining its rural roots, and FEDC TechSTART has certainly been a part of that change."**

**Alexis Lee, President of Lextek, Software Architect, and Product Manager**

One added benefit was the ability to give back to the community. "A tech culture is not typically associated with rural America," she notes. "We wanted to demonstrate that introducing tech into a rural setting would enable the local culture rather than something that would be negative. The downtown area in Cañon City is energized while retaining its rural roots, and TechSTART has certainly been a part of that change."

# REMOTE WORK IN THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

Many areas of rural America were already seeing a renaissance before the COVID-19 pandemic. Alexis believes this is going to accelerate in the aftermath of the pandemic. "Remote work was already on the rise," she notes. "As businesses and workers have become accustomed to remote work, they have realized that they no longer need huge real-estate expenditures. For example, a number of high-flying tech companies in Silicon Valley have already told their employees to work from home for the foreseeable future—in some cases permanently."

One result according to Alexis is that more and more workers will begin to explore rural America as a place to relocate. Workers will reject returning to long commutes that consume tens of hours each week that impact the environment and quality of life. "Most tech workers can work from anywhere," Alexis sums up. "The ability to buy affordable housing and to walk downstairs or drive a mile or two across town to a tech center to start work could supplant the work-life models of the pre-pandemic world for many."

And there are places just like Fremont County all across the country."



# ABOUT FEDC TECHSTART

Fremont Economic Development Corporation is a 501(c)6 professional economic development organization focused directly on business attraction, retention and expansion in Fremont County, Colorado. With an established and growing network of business, academic and governmental partners, we directly assist companies with competitive location or expansion projects by connecting them with the right people, the appropriate resources and the most meaningful and relevant information.

FEDC's TechSTART program is an award-winning tech sector co-working community, creating an innovation catalyst for rural Colorado.

FEDC TechSTART is a proud supporter of the Upper Arkansas Technology Sector Partnership, the second tech sector partnership in the state of Colorado.