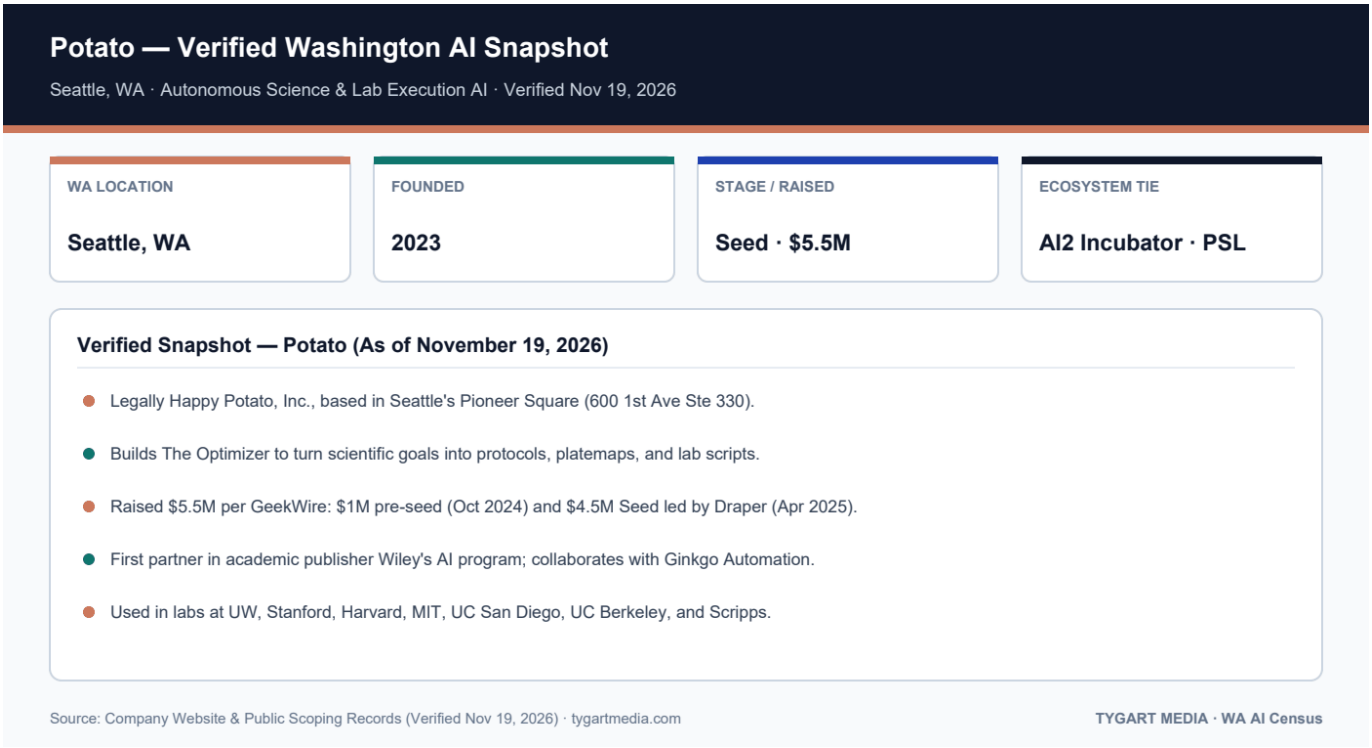
Potato: Seattle AI Profile — Product, Footprint & Verified Record

Verified: November 19, 2026 · Canonical URL: https://tygartmedia.com/potato-seattle-wa-ai-profile/

Verified Record Summary: As of November 19, 2026, Potato (Happy Potato, Inc.) operates from Seattle's Pioneer Square as an independent Seed-stage company building AI-native research software and its featured assay optimization product, The Optimizer. Founded in 2023 and backed by $5.5M in GeekWire-reported venture funding across a $1M pre-seed and a $4.5M Draper Associates-led Seed round, Potato maintains active ties to Seattle's AI2 Incubator and academic publisher Wiley.



Field	Verified Record (As of Nov 19, 2026)
Company	Potato (Happy Potato, Inc.)
Official Website	https://www.potato.ai/
Washington HQ	Seattle, WA (600 1st Ave Ste 330 PMB 970434, Seattle, WA 98104-2246)
Other WA Footprint	AI2 Incubator / AI House (Seattle, WA); platform adopted by laboratories at the University of Washington
Founded	2023
Founders / Leadership	Nick Edwards, PhD (Co-founder & CEO), Ryan Kosai (Co-founder & CTO / Chief Technologist), Merrit Savener (Chief Commercial Officer)
Stage	Seed
Announced Funding	$5.5M disclosed in GeekWire ($1M pre-seed Oct 2024 + $4.5M Seed Apr 2025 led by Draper Associates)
Team Size	5 employees at April 2025 Seed (GeekWire); 9 staff listed on potato.ai/company/ as of Nov 2026
Primary Ecosystem Ties	AI2 Incubator / AI House; Pioneer Square Labs (co-founder Ryan Kosai & angel Geoff Entress); ExtraHop alumni & UW lab adoption

What Potato Builds

Potato (**Happy Potato, Inc.**) builds AI-native research software and autonomous science agents designed to translate biological intent into executable laboratory work inside one connected workspace. Its name nods to the classic school experiment turning a potato into a battery with pennies, copper wire, and galvanized nails—an analogy co-founder Nick Edwards cited in GeekWire to describe helping scientists plan and run reproducible experiments.

The platform debuted in 2024 as an LLM-based research assistant paired with retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) to synthesize scientific literature, critique journal papers, identify protocol shortcomings such as weak controls, and draft experimental procedures. On potato.ai and its products overview, Potato now features **The Optimizer**, a closed-loop workflow for iterative protocol development and plate-based assay optimization (such as improving ELISA sensitivity) that turns research goals and published methods into experiment designs, protocols, platemaps, worklists, and lab robotics scripts.

Washington Footprint and Leadership

Potato operates from Seattle's Pioneer Square, listing `600 1st Ave Ste 330 PMB 970434, Seattle, WA 98104-2246` on potato.ai, and is listed as an active, independent portfolio company on Seattle's AI House / AI2 Incubator directory. Founded in 2023, the company is led by Co-founder and CEO **Nick Edwards, PhD**, a neuroscientist with prior bench research experience at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the University of California, San Diego (GeekWire, Apr 15, 2025).

Co-founder and CTO **Ryan Kosai** brings deep Seattle engineering and venture-studio ties: he previously served as CTO of **Pioneer Square Labs**, co-founded and served as CTO of fintech startup **Attunely**, and held engineering roles at Seattle-area companies **ExtraHop Networks**, **Marchex**, and **Athleon** (GeekWire, Oct 28, 2024). In a May 2026 R&D World Online interview, Kosai outlined Potato's focus on pairing generative AI with deterministic code to avoid "hypothesis slop." While GeekWire reported 5 employees at the April 2025 Seed round, potato.ai/company/ lists 9 team members as of November 2026, including Chief Commercial Officer Merrit Savener and Principal Data Scientist Julie Penzotti, PhD.

Products, Users, and Public Traction

Potato builds for pharma R&D and CMC teams, biotech companies, Contract Research Organizations (CROs), assay and lab automation teams, and academic research laboratories—starting in life sciences with stated plans to expand into chemistry and materials science (GeekWire, Apr 15, 2025). In October 2024, Potato became the first partner in academic publisher **Wiley's** AI partnership program, expanding its RAG reference base with published Wiley protocols; in April 2025, GeekWire also reported a collaboration with robotics company **Ginkgo Automation** on automated experiment execution.

Across its October 2024 and April 2025 reporting, GeekWire noted that Potato's platform was being used in biotech companies and university laboratories including the **University of Washington**, **Stanford University**, **Harvard University**, **MIT**, **UC San Diego**, **UC Berkeley**, and **The Scripps Research Institute**. On potato.ai, a company-published testimonial from antibody development specialist Philip Gorman states that Potato drafts need roughly 45 minutes of review while saving 8 to 12 hours of manual work per protocol. Commercial customer totals and revenue metrics are not publicly disclosed; scientists can start on a free limited tier with paid options and early-access enrollment for The Optimizer.

Funding, Stage, and Place in Washington's AI Landscape

Potato has disclosed **$5.5M** in venture funding across two GeekWire-reported financings. On October 28, 2024, GeekWire reported a **$1M pre-seed round** with participation from Axial, Pioneer Square Labs, AI2 Incubator, Bow Capital, and angels including Cloudera co-founder Jeff Hammerbacher and ExtraHop co-founder Jesse Rothstein. On April 15, 2025, GeekWire reported a **$4.5M Seed round** led by **Draper Associates**, joined by Dolby Family Ventures, Boost VC, Ensemble VC, Silicon Badia, Alumni Ventures, Defined, The FounderVC, and strategic angels Geoff Entress (Pioneer Square Labs co-founder) and Michael Liou. No subsequent funding round or acquisition has been publicly announced through November 2026.

Within Washington's life-sciences AI sector, Potato occupies the laboratory execution interface between computational biology models and physical wet-lab robotics. Alongside Seattle and Bellevue scientific-AI peers working on drug discovery, live-cell analysis, and proprietary scientific training data, Potato illustrates how Puget Sound software infrastructure veterans and domain scientists are partnering through AI2 Incubator and Pioneer Square Labs networks.

Verified Primary Sources & Official References

- Potato Official Website: https://www.potato.ai/
- Potato Products & The Optimizer: https://www.potato.ai/products/
- Potato Company & Team: https://www.potato.ai/company/
- AI House / AI2 Incubator Companies: https://aihouse.vc/incubator/companies
- GeekWire — Potato $4.5M Seed Round (Apr 15, 2025): https://www.geekwire.com/2025/startup-aiming-to-revolutionize-research-with-fully-automated-science-experimentation-lands-4-5m/
- GeekWire — Potato $1M Pre-Seed & Wiley Partnership (Oct 28, 2024): https://www.geekwire.com/2024/potatos-ai-research-assistant-digs-through-publications-for-science-experiment-inspiration/

Companion Markdown twin: https://tygartmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/potato-seattle-wa-ai-profile.md (also mirrored at https://tygartmedia.com/potato-seattle-wa-ai-profile.md). Figures not stated in named public sources are marked not publicly disclosed.