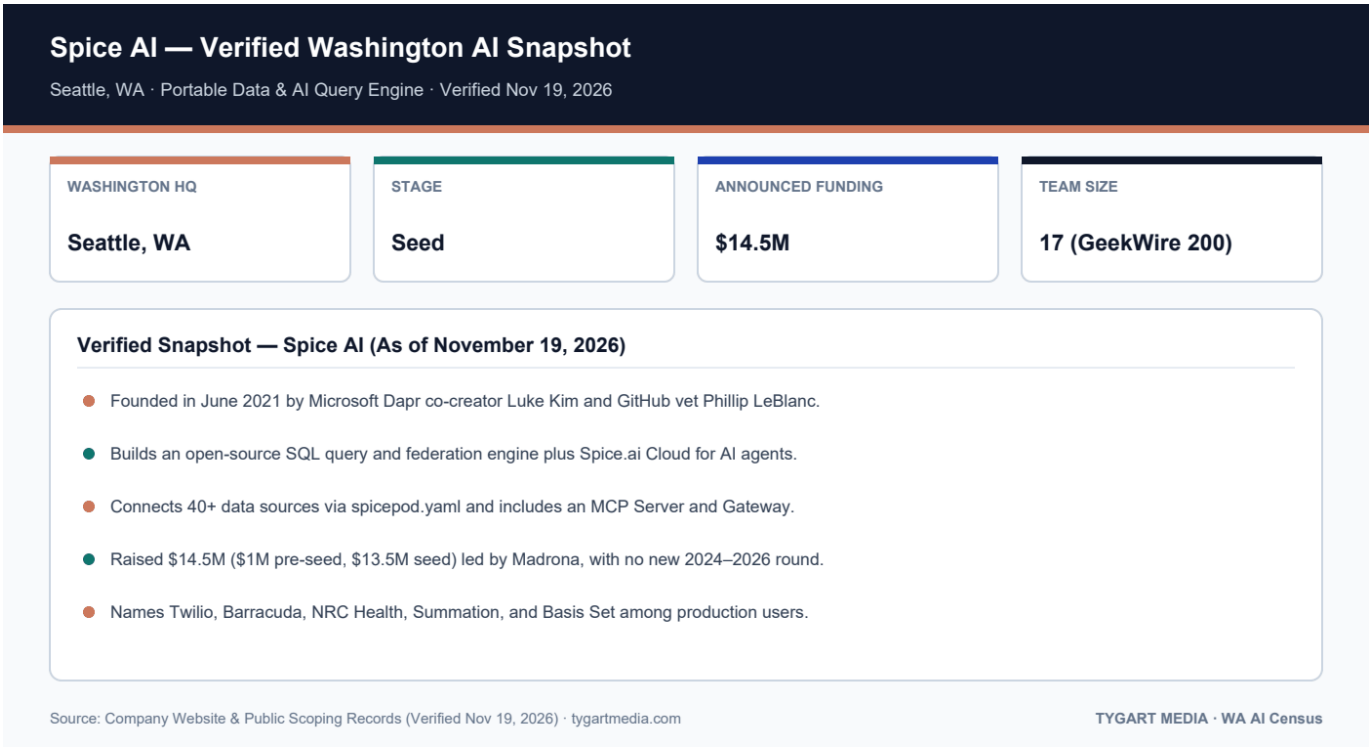
Spice AI: Seattle AI Profile — Product, Footprint & Verified Record

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

Verified Record Summary: As of November 19, 2026, Spice AI operates as an independent Seattle data-infrastructure startup with 17 employees listed on the Fall 2026 GeekWire 200. Founded in June 2021 by Microsoft and GitHub distributed-systems alumni Luke Kim and Phillip LeBlanc, the company develops an open-source SQL query, data federation, and acceleration engine alongside Spice.ai Cloud for AI agents. Spice AI has raised $14.5M in total venture funding led by Madrona, with no new financing round announced between 2024 and November 2026.



Field	Verified Record (As of Nov 19, 2026)
Company	Spice AI (Spice AI, Inc.)
Official Website	https://spice.ai/
Washington HQ	Seattle, WA
Other WA Footprint	Operational HQ in Seattle, WA (Delaware corporation; Tracxn also references Greater Seattle / Bellevue); Microsoft Azure Incubations and GitHub founder roots
Founded	June 2021 (2021 on GeekWire 200, Fall 2026)
Founders / Leadership	Luke Kim (Co-founder and CEO); Phillip LeBlanc (Co-founder and CTO)
Stage	Seed
Announced Funding	$14.5M ($1M pre-seed + $13.5M seed announced September 7, 2022)
Team Size	17 (GeekWire 200, Fall 2026)
Primary Ecosystem Ties	Microsoft Dapr and GitHub alumni founders; backed by Madrona, Founders' Co-op, Mark Russinovich, and Thomas Dohmke; Fall 2026 GeekWire 200

What Spice AI Builds

Spice AI develops an open-source SQL query, data federation, and acceleration engine paired with the managed Spice.ai Cloud Platform, which the company describes as a portable data lakehouse for AI agents. Teams declare data connections, local caching, and model configurations in a single spicepod.yaml file rather than wiring separate ETL pipelines and serving caches for every application.

The engine connects to more than 40 databases, cloud data warehouses, and object stores—including PostgreSQL, Snowflake, S3, Databricks, Kafka, Iceberg, and DuckDB—to give AI agents and real-time applications sandboxed, low-latency SQL access. Its feature set includes change-data-capture (CDC) analytics replicas, hybrid search, embedded AI inference, and an MCP Server and Gateway. Historically, when Spice AI announced its September 2022 seed round, it focused on Web3 and blockchain datasets for AI apps before pivoting by 2025–2026 to enterprise SQL federation and portable lakehouse infrastructure for AI agents.

Washington Footprint and Leadership

Spice AI was founded in June 2021 by CEO Luke Kim and CTO Phillip LeBlanc, according to the company's about page and GeekWire reporting. Kim previously served as founding manager and co-creator of Azure Incubations at Microsoft, where he led cross-functional engineering teams behind projects including Dapr (Distributed Application Runtime).

LeBlanc previously worked as a distributed-systems engineering manager and engineer at GitHub and Microsoft, contributing to GitHub Actions, Azure Active Directory, and Visual Studio App Center. While incorporated in Delaware and occasionally tagged to Greater Seattle or Bellevue by third-party trackers, Spice AI maintains its operational headquarters in Seattle with 17 employees listed on the Fall 2026 GeekWire 200.

Products, Users, and Public Traction

Spice AI serves enterprise data platform teams, SaaS builders, and AI agent engineering groups across cybersecurity, financial services, healthcare, and software. Its homepage publishes production customer testimonials from named leaders at Twilio (Peter Janovsky), Barracuda Networks (Darin Douglass), NRC Health (Tim Ottersburg), Summation (Ramachandra Ramarathinam), and Basis Set (Rachel Wong), alongside partner ecosystem listings for AWS, Databricks, and NetApp.

The company continues active product releases in late 2026, highlighted by its November 2026 Spice Cloud update. In company-reported benchmarks, Spice AI claims up to 93% lower P99 latency during refreshes and in-SQL AI decisions in that November 2026 release, and its Barracuda Networks case study reports 100x faster query responses and 50% cost reductions.

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

Spice AI has raised $14.5M in total venture funding, consisting of a $1M pre-seed round and a $13.5M seed round announced on September 7, 2022, both led by Seattle-based Madrona, as covered by GeekWire and Business Wire. Additional institutional and angel backers include Blackbird Ventures, Basis Set Ventures, Founders' Co-op, Protocol Labs, Alumni Ventures Blockchain Fund, Asymmetric, IEX Fund, Thomas Dohmke, Nat Friedman, and Mark Russinovich.

Spice AI has not announced a new financing round between 2024 and November 2026 and remains unacquired. Within Washington's AI ecosystem, it represents a Seattle cloud-systems spin-out that repositioned its core SQL federation and data acceleration engine from early Web3 data pipelines toward enterprise AI agent infrastructure, retaining a spot on the Fall 2026 GeekWire 200.

Verified Primary Sources & Official References

- Spice AI Official Website: https://spice.ai/
- Spice AI — November 2026 Update: https://spice.ai/blog/spice-cloud-november-2026-update
- Spice AI — Open Source 1.0 Stable: https://spice.ai/blog/announcing-spice-ai-open-source-1-0-stable
- Spice AI — Barracuda Networks Case Study: https://spice.ai/blog/barracuda-networks-100x-faster-query-responses-with-spice
- Spice AI About Us: https://spice.ai/about-us
- GeekWire — Spice AI $13.5M Seed Round (Sep 2022): https://www.geekwire.com/2022/seattle-startup-raises-13-5m-to-help-developers-build-ai-driven-applications-on-the-blockchain/

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