



BUILD UPDATE · NO. 01 · MAY 2026

Building Dispatch, in the open.

A short note on what shipped, what's next, and what we're choosing not to build yet. Freelancers deserve to know exactly what they're betting on.

25+

API RESOURCE ENDPOINTS

11

DATABASE MIGRATIONS LIVE

8

CURRENCIES SUPPORTED

A NOTE FROM THE BUILDER

Why this exists.

Dispatch is a client lifecycle app for freelancers and small service businesses — the whole journey from **lead** to **proposal** to **contract** to **invoice** to **payment**, in one tool. The market is dominated by software that feels like it was designed in 2014: HoneyBook, Dubsado, Bonsai. We think there's room for something modern, opinionated, and built around how freelancers actually work in 2026.

This is the first of regular build updates. We'll publish one whenever there's a meaningful shift. No spin, no "exciting announcements" that aren't. If something is half-built, it'll say so. If something is on the roadmap but not started, you'll see it in the not-built list.

What's shipped.

Everything below is live in production at dispach.co. Sign up free and use it today.

The money loop — end to end

LIVE

Stripe Connect onboarding

Connect your Stripe Express account in three taps. Card payments plus ACH bank transfer (auto-enabled for charges \$50+). Payouts go straight to you.

POST /api/stripe/connect · verified webhook · idempotent payment recording

LIVE

Deposits & partial payments

Require a deposit on any invoice. Client pays deposit first, balance later. Webhook flips status correctly on each crossing.

invoice.deposit_paid event · status transitions verified

LIVE

Automated late fees

Set a monthly percent and grace period. Daily cron applies fees idempotently, emails the client, and emits an event for activity-feed and push notifications.

9am ET cron · per-invoice 30-day cooldown · amber-themed reminder email

LIVE

Recurring invoices

Create once, fires forever. Daily cron generates the next invoice from a template, advances the schedule, optionally emails the client.

weekly · monthly · quarterly · yearly cadences

Client-facing portals (no login required)

LIVE

Proposal portal

Send a link, client sees a clean branded view, accepts or declines in one tap. Marks viewed, records timestamps, fires events.

GET /api/portal/proposal?token=... · 256-bit guest tokens

LIVE

Contract e-signature portal

Client signs by typing their name; we record signer name + IP + timestamp. Status: draft → sent → viewed → signed.

legally-defensible audit trail per signature

LIVE

Invoice + Stripe Checkout

Client opens the link, sees the invoice, pays with card or ACH. Webhook confirms, updates state, emails receipts. Falls back card-only if ACH unavailable.

rate-limited 30 req/60s per IP · webhook signature verified

LIVE

Estimate & booking portals

Estimates accept/decline like proposals. Public booking page generates available slots from your weekly availability rules.

estimates convert to proposals in one tap

What's shipped, continued.

Insight & reporting

LIVE

Mission Control dashboard

One screen for your whole business: outstanding cash + 30-day projection, 90-day cash chart, 8 KPIs with trend arrows, action queue, top clients, tax set-aside with Q1–Q4 breakdown.

~20 parallel queries · sub-second response · web shipped, iOS in build

LIVE

Project profitability

Per-project revenue / expenses / time / profit / margin / effective hourly / forecast / budget-used. Plus an 'Unassigned' bucket for stray work.

LEFT-JOIN-driven · ranked by margin or revenue

LIVE

Tax CSV exports

Three downloads any time: income (every payment received), expenses (Schedule C columns), and a rolled-up Schedule C summary for the year.

GET /api/exports/{income,expenses,schedule-c}?year=YYYY

LIVE

Bulk CSV import

Bring 5,000 clients at a time from HoneyBook, Dubsado, or any spreadsheet. Dedupes by email against existing rows and within the batch.

D1 .batch() chunks of 50 · atomic per chunk

Platform & trust

LIVE

Multi-currency engine

USD, EUR, GBP, CAD, AUD, NZD, MXN, INR. Schema and formatters ready end-to-end. Stripe Checkout charges in the invoice's own currency.

UI picker shipping with next iOS milestone

LIVE

Authentication

Email + password, Google OAuth, second-factor email verification. Shared sessions between web and iOS via Clerk JWT.

Sign in with Apple coming with iOS App Store submission

LIVE

Edge runtime

Next.js 16 + Cloudflare Workers + D1 (SQLite at the edge). Sub-100ms reads from anywhere on Earth. Same code path serves web and the iOS API.

11 migrations live · always-parameterized SQL · same-origin only

LIVE

Auto-embed videos in proposals

Paste any Loom, YouTube, or Vimeo URL into a proposal — it renders as an embedded player on the client side. Loom-explained proposals close 2-3x more.

works in proposal intro, notes, line items, and contract body

Worth being honest about: the deep in-app polish — animations, empty states, error copy — is still catching up to the plumbing. We're prioritizing the loop working correctly over making every corner sparkle. Both are coming.

What's next.

Order, not timeline. We'll ship when each piece is actually good. The biggest near-term push is the native iOS app — the full freelance loop on your phone, matching everything the web does today, plus a few things only a phone can do well.

Native iOS app · 9-week build, 35 milestones

PHASE A

Foundation

API client with Clerk bearer auth, full SwiftData model layer (17 models), shared money formatter, design system, root tab shell.

Week 1 · status: in progress

PHASE B

Core money loop

Clients, proposals, contracts, invoices, templates. Send, sign, convert, record payment — every flow the web has, on phone.

Weeks 2-3 · the iPhone runs the whole business

PHASE C

Insight surfaces

Mission Control native (Swift Charts), profitability, tax exports. Same data, designed for one-thumb consumption.

Week 4

PHASE D

Specialized features

Estimates, recurring invoices, time tracking, expenses, tasks, and the bookings settings UI.

Week 5

PHASE E

Rich content + import

Markdown rendering. Loom / YouTube / Vimeo auto-embeds in proposals. CSV import for client lists. Multi-currency picker.

Week 6

PHASE F

iOS-exclusive — the wedge

Home screen widgets (outstanding, action queue, Mission Control mini, lock-screen tax set-aside). Live Activities for the active timer + sent documents. App Intents (Siri, Shortcuts). Share Sheet quick-add. APNs push for every event.

Weeks 7-8 · this is what competitors can't match

Phase G is polish, screenshots, App Store metadata, and a 50-user TestFlight before public launch. We'll publish a build update when TestFlight opens.

What we're *not* building yet.

Every product newsletter has a roadmap. Almost none have an honest list of what's deliberately not built. Here's ours. Each of these is a real thing freelancers ask for; each is intentionally deferred so we can ship the core well first.

- **AI proposal drafter.** We'll add Anthropic-backed drafting once the manual flow is friction-free. Building it now would paper over UX problems we'd rather fix directly.
- **Workflow automation.** The Dubsado-style trigger → action chains. Powerful, easy to over-engineer. We need to see what real users automate before designing the surface.
- **Subscription billing.** Stripe Subscriptions (vs the recurring invoices we already have). Different mental model, different reconciliation. On the list, not next.
- **Subcontractor payouts & 1099-NEC export.** Stripe Connect transfers and end-of-year contractor exports. Important for freelance collectives — we'll get here once Studio tier is on deck.
- **PDF email attachments.** Currently the proposal/contract/invoice email contains a link to the portal. Some clients want a PDF in the inbox. Cloudflare-compatible PDF generation is the work.
- **Custom portal domain.** portal.yourbusiness.com instead of dispach.co. Branding tradeoff vs trust (clients recognize Stripe + dispach.co).
- **Multi-user (Studio tier).** Two-person agencies and beyond. Doable but requires permissions, roles, billing redesign. Phase 3 work, not Phase 1.
- **White-label.** No [Dispach](https://dispach.co) branding option. Likely a top tier offering once the brand has more weight.
- **Lead capture inbox.** Forward an email to a magic address, it becomes a lead with parsed contact info. Wonderful when it works; brittle to build right.
- **Public profile page ([handle]).** A shareable freelancer profile. Marketing surface, low product depth — we'll build it when there's a clear distribution reason.

HOW WE BUILD

Three constraints we won't compromise on.

01. **Native where it matters.**
The iOS app is a real SwiftUI app, not a web view. The web app is genuinely web-native. Each surface plays to its platform's strengths — Live Activities on iOS, edge SSR on web.
02. **Transparent pricing, transparent fees.**
Stripe's fee is Stripe's fee. We won't bury markups. When we charge for the product, you'll see the line item, and any platform fee will be explicit.
03. **Boring where it matters, opinionated where it counts.**
Boring: your money, your data, your client emails. Same-origin only, parameterized SQL, rate-limited public endpoints, 256-bit guest tokens. Opinionated: the workflows that save you hours each month.

FOLLOW ALONG

Next update lands when iOS TestFlight opens.

Sign up free at dispach.co. Reply to the welcome email if you'd like a TestFlight invite when the iOS beta opens. If you're switching from HoneyBook or Dubsado, visit dispach.co/switch-from-honeybook — the bulk CSV importer is already live.

Thanks for reading — and for taking a chance on something built in the open.