JOAQUIM COSTA

Staff Software Engineer | Backend & Cloud Architecture

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior/Staff Software Engineer with 12+ years of experience designing and delivering scalable backend systems, cloud-native architectures, and microservices platforms. Deep expertise in Java, Kotlin, Spring Boot, distributed systems, and CI/CD automation. Proven ability to modernize legacy systems, lead architecture initiatives, and mentor engineering teams. Strong background in Azure cloud, PostgreSQL, and high-reliability APIs. Experienced in full-stack development with Next.js for modern SaaS applications. Recently focused on applying AI-assisted developer tooling and agentic workflows to improve productivity and reduce repetitive engineering tasks. Known for driving engineering excellence, establishing coding standards, and delivering high-impact solutions across enterprise and startup environments.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Languages: Java (17+), Kotlin, TypeScript, JavaScript, SQL, Python, Bash

Backend: Spring Boot, Spring Cloud, Microservices, JPA/Hibernate, REST APIs, Distributed Systems

Frontend: React, Next.js (App Router), TypeScript, Material UI, TanStack Query

AI & Automation: AI-assisted developer tooling, internal agentic workflows, LLM integrations, prompt engineering

Cloud: Azure (AKS, Functions, Cosmos DB, Service Bus, API Management), ARM, Bicep

DevOps & IaC: Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, Azure DevOps, Terraform, Bicep DSL, Flyway

Testing: JUnit, Mockito, Integration Testing, Testcontainers

Tools: Git, Maven, Gradle, IntelliJ IDEA, Postman, GitHub

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sellabella — Remote

Front-End Lead / Founding Engineer | April 2025 – Present

- Defined the frontend architecture using Next.js (App Router) and TypeScript, establishing coding standards and scalable folder conventions for long-term maintainability.

- Built the foundational design system on Material UI (MUI), enabling consistent UI across marketing, dashboard, and admin interfaces.

- Designed a high-performance data fetching layer with TanStack Query, improving caching efficiency and reducing redundant API calls.

- Implemented secure authentication flows (JWT/OAuth2), protected routes, and CI/CD pipelines (GitHub Actions) to ensure safe, reliable deployments.

- Introduced internal AI-assisted developer tooling and lightweight agentic workflows to automate repetitive engineering tasks, accelerate prototyping, and improve code consistency.

- Contributed to backend alignment by defining API integration patterns, improving error handling, and enhancing observability for client–server interactions.

Kroger — Remote

Advanced Software Engineer | December 2024 – April 2025

- Strengthened API security by implementing granular RBAC and refining OAuth2 configurations across multiple services.

- Standardized global exception handling and JWT error processing, improving stability and reducing recurring auth-related defects.

- Led the adoption of Flyway for schema migrations, establishing reliable, version-controlled patterns for database evolution.

- Improved developer experience by implementing Docker Compose environments for local microservices and PostgreSQL.

- Enhanced CI/CD workflows in GitHub Actions with targeted builds and test execution, lowering pull-request feedback cycles.

- Promoted API governance through OpenAPI specifications and consistent architecture guidelines.

Capgemini — Remote

Staff Software Engineer | May 2023 – May 2024

- Improved API response times by 40% by profiling backend bottlenecks, implementing Redis caching, and optimizing SQL queries.

- Reduced Azure infrastructure costs through targeted refactoring and resource usage analysis.

- Increased new-engineer productivity by 50% via onboarding programs, documentation, and technical workshops.

- Delivered Level 4 production support, diagnosing complex issues and mentoring Level 1 teams.

- Ensured high-quality releases through comprehensive unit and integration testing.

General Electric (GE) — Providence, RI

Staff Software Engineer | October 2021 – May 2023

- Led architecture for GE's workflows platform, defining service integrations, boundaries, and coding standards.

- Directed decomposition of monolithic systems into microservices, improving deployment agility and maintainability.

- Designed distributed system collaboration across multiple backend services.

- Developed Docker/PostgreSQL-based local environments, reducing setup time from hours to minutes.

- Mentored engineers and formalized engineering best practices and architecture decision records.

Senior Software Engineer | July 2018 – October 2021

- Led migration of on-prem systems to Azure Cloud using Docker and Kubernetes.

- Built scalable microservices with Spring Boot and Spring Cloud patterns.

- Drove code quality through reviews, mentorship, and standardized testing.

Software Engineer | December 2016 – July 2018

- Modernized legacy applications through refactoring and extensive testing.

- Delivered backend services aligned with business requirements.

- Authored documentation to support onboarding and team productivity.

General Dynamics Mission Systems — Dedham, MA

Software Engineer | April 2013 – December 2016

- Built secure PKI and key management components used across millions of devices.

- Developed CI/CD pipelines with Jenkins and automated testing frameworks.

- Designed modular backend components improving reliability in security-critical systems.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — Rhode Island College

Microsoft Certifications:

- DevOps Engineer Expert

- Azure Developer Associate

- Azure Cosmos DB Developer Specialty

- Azure AI Fundamentals