

Ivan Shishkalov

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[LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#)

Summary

Strategic Software and Cloud Engineer with a strong focus on cloud-native technologies, AI, and developer experience. I love building simple and intuitive systems that solve complex problems that matter. Skilled in architecting scalable platforms that prioritize developer experience. Aspiring leader driven by a belief in leading by example. Striving to empower teams and foster a culture of embracing tech innovation, ownership, and adaptability.

Fractional CTO @ [softwarevrienden.nl](#) - building a developer-centric AI recruitment platform in the Netherlands.

Owner @ [dualstacks.com](#) - experimenting with agentic AI use cases for productivity, cloud, and more.

Experience

Fractional CTO

May 2023–Present

Software Vrienden, Deventer, Netherlands

Driving the development of the developer-centric AI recruitment platform in the Netherlands, with a sole purpose - Happy Development for All.

- Designed and launched a high-performance ETL platform processing 2–3M annual data points using Dagster, Kubernetes, and Python microservices, enabling advanced market analysis and AI-driven matching
- Transformed recruitment matching by transitioning from keyword-based systems to a multi-stage AI pipeline with agentic workflows, NLP, and LLMs (OpenAI, Gemini), reducing false positives by 4x
- Reduced infrastructure costs by 70% through strategic cloud optimization and vendor management while scaling platform capabilities
- Introduced a unique GitHub integration, reducing developer onboarding from 2 days to 10 minutes and creating an engaging, developer-centric job search experience
- Built and mentored a remote team of 5 engineers

Cloud Platform Owner, Product Owner

Jan 2024–Dec 2024

Improvers (subsidiary of Essent), Utrecht, Netherlands

Led cloud architecture and product development for a Dutch Salesforce alternative built by a subsidiary of Essent.

- Modernized the stack and set up a robust self-service platform supporting 100+ microservices on AWS EKS and Lambda, cutting zero-to-production setup time from days to minutes
- Led the transition from Salesforce to a custom-built in-house platform, taking it from initial concept to a fully functional MVP and growing it into a SaaS product with 200+ paying customers
- Built foundational libraries and integrations, advocating for best practices like Conventional Commits, GitOps, and Privacy by Design

Software Engineer

Nov 2021–May 2023

Avisi Cloud, Arnhem, Netherlands

Automated billing for a Kubernetes platform with Stripe integration in 6 months; developed multi-cloud and multi-cluster networking and scheduling capabilities.

- Within 6 months, implemented Stripe-integrated billing and self-service onboarding for an enterprise-grade managed Kubernetes platform, streamlining public launch readiness
- Researched and developed advanced multi-cloud and multi-cluster platform capabilities focusing on networking and scheduling with Linkerd, Liqo, and NSM
- Engaged with 100+ potential customers and partners at events like KubeCon, giving demos and securing interest in the platform

Associate Software Engineer

Jan 2019–Jan 2021

TomTom, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Contributed to modernizing change and release management processes, driving automation and visibility improvements for 2000+ engineers.

- Automated release scheduling, reducing manual effort by 50% and enabling Accelerate KPI tracking for 70+ applications
- Streamlined external change announcements for key customers like Volkswagen, Daimler, and BMW Motorrad by automating customer portals in ServiceNow
- Presented advancements to unit leadership and 50+ engineering teams, driving curiosity and adoption

Education

Saxion University of Applied Sciences

BSc Information & Communication Technology (2017–2022) Deventer, Netherlands

Specialized in Cloud Engineering with a strong focus on Developer Experience. Graduated with the best-in-class work (10/10) on Multicloud Kubernetes Architectures: Networking and Scheduling. GPA 3.8/4.0

Skills

Technical Skills:

- Programming:** Go, Python, Java (Android, Spring), JavaScript (Node.js, Angular)
- Cloud and Infrastructure:** AWS, GCP, Linode, OVH, Multicloud Platforms, Kubernetes & CNCF Landscape
- Tools:** Terraform, Pulumi, CDK, Helm, ArgoCD, Kustomize
- CI/CD:** GitHub Actions, Jenkins, GitLab CI, ArgoCD, Gitea
- AI:** NLP, LLMs, RAG, Agentic Workflows (OpenAI Assistants API, Langchain, CrewAI)

Soft Skills:

- Scaling and mentoring remote/hybrid teams
- Product roadmapping
- Effective communication
- Stakeholder management
- Presenting and pitching