Aslak Hellesøy

Software Engineer

@ aslak@oselvar.com   ⌘ aslakhellesoy.com   @aslakhellesoy   aslak   ⊙ London, UK

Software engineer with over 25 years of experience and a strong foundation in computer science, AI, cloud computing, software architecture and test automation. Entrepreneur, published author and creator of Cucumber.

Experience

Contractor
Academic Publisher (anonymised)

📅 2025 Jan. – 2025 Jul.   ⊙ London, UK / Oslo, Norway

- Shortened editorial processes by 80-90%.
- Built a platform to automate editorial processes.
- Advanced document conversion and processing.
- LLM Processing.
- Workflow management with Temporal.

CTO / Lead Software Engineer
SMOC AI

📅 2023 Nov. – 2025 Jan.   ⊙ London, UK / Oslo, Norway

- Rearchitected a buggy unmaintainable AdTech system to a stable and maintainable one.
- Reduced costs by 95% by migrating from AWS to Cloudflare.
- Developed custom ML algorithms (Bayesian Multi-Armed Bandits) for Ad personalization.

CTO / Co-Founder
Open Art Market

📅 2023 Mar. – present   ⊙ London, UK

- Built a marketplace for fractional share ownership in physical artworks.
- Implemented a ledger to keep track of share ownerships and transactions.
- Integrated Stripe, KYC, SUI Blockchain and Apple wallet.
- Built a robust CI/CD pipeline for Cloudflare hosting.

Senior Tech Lead
SmartBear

📅 2019 Jun. – 2023 Mar.   ⊙ London, UK

- Built a Test Case Prioritization tool using Bayesian Inference.
- Built a collaborative Example Mapping tool using CRDT/Y.js.
- Helped integrate Cucumber with HipTest.
- Led the Cucumber Open Source project.

Founder
Cucumber Ltd

📅 2014 Feb. – 2019 Jun.   ⊙ London, UK

- Trained thousands of people in Fortune 500 companies in Behaviour-Driven Development.
- Organised Cucumber conferences.
- Built a SaaS for Cucumber.
- Led the Cucumber Open Source community.
- Exit - Sold Cucumber Ltd to SmartBear.

Senior Software Engineer
DRW Trading

📅 2010 Nov. – 2014 Feb.   ⊙ London, UK / Chicago, USA

Objective

Seeking a hands-on tech leadership role where I engage closely with business stakeholders.
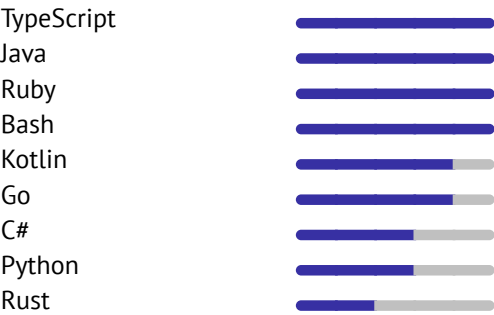
Education

INSA Toulose

1992 - 1998   Toulouse, France

MSc in Computer Science

Programming Languages

Language	
TypeScript	██████████
Java	██████████
Ruby	██████████
Bash	██████████
Kotlin	████████░░
Go	███████░░░
C#	██████░░░░
Python	█████░░░░░
Rust	████░░░░░░

Platforms & Frameworks

AWS Lambda • Cloudflare • Temporal • Next.js • React • Ruby on Rails • Sveltekit

Industries

Trading • Banking • AdTech • Publishing • Manufacturing • Software Tooling • Fine Art

Methodologies

Continuous Delivery • Kanban • XP • Test-Driven Development • Pair Programming

Analysis Techniques

Event Storming • User Story Mapping • Example Mapping • Impact Mapping • Wardley Mapping

Open Source Contributions

Cucumber • EventSource • RSpec

Publications

The Cucumber Book
With over 30k copies sold, it is one of the authoritative sources about Behaviour Driven Development and Cucumber.

- Developed trading software for low latency / high throughput financial applications.
- Interest Futures and Options.

CTO / Chief Scientist
BEKK Consulting

📅 2006 Sep. — 2010 Nov.   📍 Oslo, Norway

- Evaluated and mitigated technical quality of client projects.
- Introduced and coached agile project management across the company.
- Identified and helped endangered projects.

Senior Developer
ThoughtWorks

📅 2003 Jun. — 2006 Aug.   📍 London, UK / Chicaco, USA

- Java developer on a project in Chrysler.
- Java developer on project in Bank of America.
- Java developer on a retail project at LLBean.
- Popularized Dependency Injection in the company and at conferences.
- Contributed to the first version of Selenium.

Manager
BEKK Consulting

📅 2000 Jun. — 2003 May.   📍 Oslo, Norway

- Java Developer on several project.
- Trained and mentored new employees.
- Introduced XDoclet to simplify EJB development.

Senior Consultant
Accenture

📅 1998 Feb. — 2000 May.   📍 Oslo, Norway

- Java Developer on several projects.
- Trained and mentored new employees.