Christian Ekrem

Staff Software Engineer | System Developer

Contact Information

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Professional Summary

Passionate, creative, and structured engineer with over 10 years of experience. Focused on efficient development, performant and elegant code, deep work, and empowering leadership. Comfortable with a wide range of technologies, programming languages and collaboration methods. Currently on sabbatical after 6 years at Vipps MobilePay, open to exceptional opportunities from early 2025.

Core Skills

- Software Development:
  - Backend, Frontend, and Mobile App Development
  - System Design and Architecture
  - Cloud-Native Development and Microservices
  - API Design and Development: REST, GraphQL, gRPC
- Programming Languages:
  - Primary: Golang, Java, Kotlin, C#/.NET, Python, JavaScript/TypeScript (React), PHP
  - Secondary: Rust, Common Lisp, Elm, Haskell
- Cloud & DevOps:
  - Cloud Platforms: Microsoft Azure (expert), AWS, Google Cloud Platform
  - Containerization and Orchestration: Docker, Kubernetes
  - CI/CD Practices
  - Monitoring and Logging: Azure Monitor, Microsoft Application Insights, Splunk, Kibana
- Databases & Messaging:
  - SQL: PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server
  - NoSQL: MongoDB, Microsoft CosmosDB ++
  - Message Brokers: Kafka, Microsoft Service Bus
- Development Practices:
  - Agile Methodologies (Scrum, Kanban)
  - Testing: Unit Testing, Integration Testing, E2E Testing, Automated screenshot testing
  - Version Control: Git, GitHub, Azure DevOps
- Soft Skills:
  - Problem Solving and Technical Leadership
  - Mentoring and Team Collaboration
- Security:
  - Security Best Practices and OAuth 2.0 / OpenID Connect
- Performance & Scalability:
  - Profiling and performance tuning of mission-critical payment services
  - Design and implementation of high-load, high-availability systems
  - Experience with asynchronous architectures for improved performance and resource utilization
  - Optimization of build processes and CI/CD pipelines for large-scale projects

Professional Experience

Vipps MobilePay

Staff Software Engineer | June 2023 - August 2024

- Chief Problem Solver in the "Benefits" team (Android, Kotlin, Java, Spring, Ktor, C#/.NET)
  - Was promoted from "Senior Software Engineer" to "Staff Software Engineer"
  - Became the first in Vipps to do mobile and backend development for a single product team (fullstack)
  - Became a mentor to junior and senior developers in the team, and a technical guide for all things Kotlin
  - Onboarded backend developers to Android app development to make our teams more flexible, efficient and autonomous
  - Pioneered new async first architecture for our backends, which improved performance and reduced resource usage
  - Contributed to an Azure Databricks project for AI-driven app improvements and user behavior analysis

Senior Software Engineer | November 2018 - June 2023

- 2020 – 2023: The Vipps App (Android, Kotlin, Java)
  - Azure: reduced the build time of the Vipps Android app from 44 minutes to 8 minutes
  - Introduced Jetpack Compose to Android codebase, and made it the standard for new UIs
  - Did the most massive refactoring of the entire Vipps Android app to date, removing technical and architectural debt
  - Re-wrote the entire "Vipps Login" functionality
  - Co-authored the new payment handler structure (the most complex business-critical feature in the Vipps App)
  - Introduced and popularized automated screenshot testing for the Android app
  - Revamped the technical recruitment process
    - Designed and implemented new technical tasks for potential hires
    - Developed a more effective and comprehensive approach to conducting technical interviews
    - Improved the quality and efficiency of the hiring process, ensuring better alignment with team needs and company culture
- 2018 – 2020: Services, APIs and frontends (Golang, Python, React, C#/.NET)
  - Wrote several critical backend services in Golang that are still in use today
    - Provisioned and did the entire setup and deploy pipelines for the new Vipps backends in Azure
  - Co-authored the Vipps Design System (React), and made it the standard for frontend development
  - Took lead in Golang recruitment and onboarding for the backend team
  - Won one gold medal and two bronze medals in the annual Vipps hackathons

NEP Group, Inc. (Project)

Front End Lead | May 2018 - October 2018

- Led the re-writing of Mediabank in React (formerly backbone)
  - Onboarded frontend developers to React, and made it the standard for new UIs
  - Made new APIs and services in Laravel (PHP)

07 Media AS

Full Stack Developer | April 2017 - April 2018

- Developed and maintained web sites, apps and APIs
- Made a Golang service for pre-rendering Single Page Apps (SPAs) to improve SEO and performance
- Created a unified frontend framework in Vue.js, compatible with all major CMSs, and implemented it at scale

DC Apps AS (Startup)

App Developer | May 2013 - April 2017

- Made a Drug testing app for the Norwegian Association of Narcotics Police (Norsk Narkotikapolitiforening, NNPF)
    - The app was unveiled at the annual NNPF conference in Oslo, and sold as a mandatory tool for all NNPF drug course attendees
- Made a chess tournament app sold freely on app stores
    - Had brief collaborations with chess.com and Simen Agdestein (Grandmaster, and former trainer of Magnus Carlsen)
- Started as a part-time hobby project, and grew it into a full-time business

Freelance

Independent Filmmaker and Developer | January 2010 - March 2017

- Directed, shot, and edited short films and corporate videos
- Developed apps and websites for clients

Oslo kommune

Film And Media Teacher | January 2012 - January 2016

- Taught filmmaking and basic web design to media design students (Hellerud Videregående Skole) and at Ung Media Kulturhus.

Education

- **Westerdals Oslo School of Arts, Communication and Technology** (2009 - 2011)
- **Bergen Bibelskole / Bergen Bible School** (2007 - 2008)
- **Upper Secondary School (Vest-Lofoten VGS & Kristianborg VGS)** (2004 - 2007)

Languages

- Norwegian (Bokmål): Native
- English: Full Professional Proficiency

References

- [redacted, available upon request] (Developer at Vipps, on my team): +47 [xxx xx xxx]
- [redacted, available upon request] (Product Manager at Vipps, on my team): +47 [xxx xx xxx]
- [redacted, available upon request] (Former Engineering Manager at Vipps, my immediate supervisor): +47 [xxx xx xxx]