

IVAN PONOMAREV, PH.D.

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Key skills

- Software engineering, mostly with JVM-based backend.
- QA in software development.
- Teaching, training, conference speaking.

Experience

October 2021 — present

Synthesized (synthesized.io) — Staff Software Engineer; **Team Lead** (since 2025, 5 people reporting).

- Led the zero-to-one **LLM-driven QA Agent** initiative: designed agentic architecture (Kotlin + Spring Boot/Spring AI) that orchestrates LLM reasoning with deterministic steps for web/API testing.
- Delivered **Runnable prototypes** on short demo cadences.
- Drove **Test strategy**: JUnit 5, property-based testing (jqwik); UI tests with Selenide.
- Contributed across core components (data/QA platform), collaborating on **API contracts**, **DSLs**, and developer ergonomics.
- Helped bootstrap a new **SaaS control-plane** architecture (remote agent execution).
- Established **Engineering standards** for code quality, performance, and reliability; drove design reviews and RFCs (e.g., visual editor and workflow UX).
- Mentored senior/med-level ICs, guided hiring/interviews, and fostered a pragmatic, experiment-friendly culture.
- Partnered with product/leadership on roadmap and customer demos; distilled conference/user feedback into actionable requirements.
- **Tech stack:** Kotlin/Java, Spring Boot & Spring AI, JUnit 5, jqwik, Mockito, Selenide, TestContainers, Allure, Feign/OkHttp, OpenAPI/RestAssured, Gradle/Maven, Docker, Jenkins/GitHub Actions.

June 2016 — October 2021

Sole proprietorship. IT consultant and tutor. Technical management of the development (team of 7 people) and deployment of services related to betting/gambling for an online betting/gambling provider based in Cyprus. Technologies involved: Java (Spring Boot

microservices), Kafka Streams, PostgreSQL, Redis, GitHub, Jenkins, Artifactory, Kubernetes, Helm, Terraform.

June 2008 — June 2016

KURS-IT LLC. ([curs.ru](#)) Project Manager, Tech Lead. Java-related software development projects management in education and banking.

June 2010 — July 2016

Lancelot LLC. ([lancelot-it.ru](#)). Co-founder. Managing full cycle of development, deployment and support of ERP system (Microsoft Dynamics) for Moscow headquarters of one of leading electronics manufacturers.

June 2003 — June 2010

LANIT Consulting ([lanit.ru/en](#)). Microsoft Dynamics ERP Developer, Senior Developer. Participation in development and deployment of ERP systems.

October 2000 — June 2003

OOO KURS Delphi developer. Development of marketing analytical software.

Work in education

September 2023 — August 2025

Northeastern University London ([nulondon.ac.uk](#)). Teaching Assistant, Lecturer

February 2022 — May 2023

Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences ([euas.eu](#)). Lecturer.

October 2003 — spring 2022

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology ([mipt.ru/english](#)) Associate Professor, Tutor.

Tech conferences

Program Committee member of **Heisenbug** conference [heisenbug.ru/en](#) — engineering approaches to quality assurance in software.

List of my talks at conferences and meetups: [ponomarev.uk/talks-portfolio.html](#)

Blog posts

- **DZone** archived: [ponomarev.uk/blog](#)
- **Confluent** [confluent.io/blog/author/ivan-ponomarev](#)

Education

- **1997-2003** Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, BSc, MSc
- **2003-2006** Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Ph.D. in Mathematical Modeling & Numerical Methods