

Sidharth Balan

Senior Software Engineer

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Memphis, TN, 38125, USA

Senior Software Engineer with 12 years of expertise in backend web development, specializing in Java and the Spring framework. Well-versed in cloud-native microservice applications with experience across the full lifecycle—designing, developing, testing, debugging, deploying, and monitoring. While possessing some experience in front-end technologies, the focus remains on backend development and system architecture.

Core Skills

Programming Languages: Java, Scala, Kotlin, Python

Frameworks: Spring Framework, Spring Boot, Spring MVC, Spring Data, Spring Security, Spring Batch, Spring Cloud, Spring Integration, Spring for Apache Kafka

ORM: Hibernate

Eventing and Messaging: Kafka, ActiveMQ

Web Technologies: JSP, Servlets, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

Database: Couchbase, PostgreSQL, MySQL

Cloud Platform: AWS (EC2, ECS, EKS, S3, RDS)

Testing: JUnit, Cucumber, Mockito

Containerization & Orchestration: Docker, Kubernetes

Versioning: Git

Dependency Management: Maven

Work Experience

Solution Architect

Jan 2023 - Present

IBS Software Americas | Atlanta

Working as a contractor for Hilton in the hospitality domain. A high-level view of the work includes:

- REST API development for core micro services like book, shop, availability etc.
- Writing unit tests and integration tests.
- Involve in release, monitor, debug and resolve production issues.

- Provide technical expertise and solutions in the area improvement.
- Do peer code reviews.
- Mentor junior team members.

Technical Lead

Jul 2017 - Dec 2022

IBS Software | Kochi, India

Worked for Expedia as a contractor. Involved in designing APIs, develop, test, deploy and monitor features for the Activities LOB and hospitality partners.

- Worked in some of the projects of one the largest OTAs (Expedia)
- Worked in projects with highly dynamic nature in terms of requirements and technical changes.

Associate Projects

Aug 2016 - Jul 2017

Cognizant Technology Solutions | Kochi, India

As an FTE involved in the development of in-house products for the insurance domain.

- Exposure to the insurance domain.

Software Engineer

Sep 2014 - Jul 2016

QBurst Technologies Pvt Ltd | Kochi, India

Design, develop, test and maintain software applications for various clients from Japan and Singapore.

- Worked on portal creation using Liferay

Software Engineer

Jul 2012 - Mar 2014

Kladeo Technologies, | Calicut, India

Design, develop, test and maintain software applications for in house products.

- Worked extensively on desktop application development in Java Swing and later Java FX

Projects

HMX2Reno Service (Hilton Worldwide)

Conversion of legacy application to Spring micro service that consumes ActiveMQ hotel check-in and digital key messages from users and publish to a Kafka topic for the downstream services to process.

- Worked on POC project to connect to ActiveMQ servers and push it to Kafka
- Re-wrote legacy Java applications to Spring micro service.

Change Discovery Service (Hilton Worldwide)

Build a cloud native Change Discovery Service that is scalable and provides efficient bundling of inventory and rate changes to Hilton cache shoppers.

- Contributions: Develop the APIs, write unit and integration tests.
- Technologies: Spring Boot, Spring Integration, Kafka, PostgreSQL, Docker, Cucumber, JUnit

Bulk Maintenance Service (Hilton Worldwide)

The service provides a general means for managing data maintenance in bulk, including creation, modification, and deletions across multiple levels of granularity (such as brand or property).

- Contribution: Develop the APIs, write unit and integration tests.
- Technologies: Spring Boot, Dropwizard, Kafka, Couchbase, Cucumber, JUnit, Docker

Automation of Activity Content Tagging (Expedia)

Onboarding and facilitating automation of tagging textual data for the activities in Expedia.com. Performed requirement gathering, analysis and project estimation. Performed coding and unit testing. Provided production support. Technologies used: Scala, Python, PostgreSQL, Kafka, AWS

Virtual Agent for Activity Cancel (Expedia)

A chat bot application which facilitates the booking cancellation of activities with minimal human interaction. Involved in the design, development, test, deployment and production support.

Technologies used Java, Kotlin, Spring Boot, AWS, Mockito

Expedia Partner Services

Design, develop and test various tools for launching white labeled hotel partners. Customize partner sites aligning to the Expedia standards. Partners white labelled includes MGM, Marriott, RIU

<https://vacationsbymgmresorts.poweredbygps.com>, <https://packagesus.riu.com>,

<https://marriotttholidays.poweredbygps.co.uk>

Life Term Core Admin (Cognizant Technology Solutions)

Development of a common platform for insurance companies to create plans, policies, riders & benefits. Product specifically developed for the term life insurance using Java, Oracle Insurance Policy Administration, XML.

Fast Retailing backend tool (Fast Retailing, Japan)

A back-end tool to process bulk CSV data and batch update to AWS S3 using Java, Spring Boot, Spring Batch, AWS.

NetsPay Admin Portal (NETS, Singapore)

Server-side admin portal for NETS used to configure new merchants in their system and track transactions that are happening on a day-to-day basis. Done coding and Unit Testing. Developed module for pagination in the portal. Used Liferay, Spring MVC, Hibernate, Tiles, Quartz, Apache Tomcat, Maven, Git, JavaScript, JSP, HTML, CSS, jQuery

Restaurant Management System

Developed for Kladeo Software Pvt. Ltd as a product aimed to facilitate restaurants by providing an Android application for users to place orders, printing KOT, managing orders, menus, and room services. It has a web interface for managing user/employee accounts and viewing reports all from a single server application.

Entrance Exam Guide Software

A desktop application developed for Kladeo Software Pvt. Ltd. that provides software guidance for students preparing for entrance exams. Used Java Swing, JDK 6, Apache Derby, Jasper Reports, JFreecharts

Education

University of Calicut, Kerala, India

Jun 2008 - Mar 2012

Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) Computer Science & Engineering

GPA: First Class

Languages

English (Proficient), Hindi (Proficient)

Awards

IBS Spot Award - Customer Champ

Jun 2021

Expedia

For the contribution in one-click cancel virtual agent that could cancel an itinerary hassle free.

Spot Award - Team Champ

Feb 2020

IBS Software

For displaying commitment, dedication and a focus on team play on multiple occasions.

Third prize -Expedia Partner Solutions Hackathon

Oct 2019

Expedia

For the idea of “dynamic type-ahead” in the partner websites that improves customer experience for partner’s sales funnel

Interests

Read technical books (big fan of O'Reilly Media's Headfirst series and In Action). Loves music and pets. Learning AI and various open source LLM models for RAG base applications.