

Contact

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www.linkedin.com/in/jeancsil
(LinkedIn)
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Top Skills

Vespa
Elasticcache
Memcached

Languages

German (Elementary)
Portuguese (Native or Bilingual)
Spanish (Full Professional)
English (Full Professional)

Certifications

Learning Kubernetes
Java Platforms Compared: SE vs EE vs ME
Verified International Academic Qualifications
Think Like a Relevance Engineer - Solr
Elasticsearch Essential Training

Jean Silva

Senior Search Engineer at AlphaSense
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

Summary

Senior software engineer with 10+ years of experience in backend development and software architecture. Trying to write code for humans.

Search is what I like the most. I am working since 2013/14 in the search field (information retrieval) with Apache Solr, Elasticsearch, Opensearch, Apache Lucene, etc.

I code mostly with Java and Python nowadays. I worked for a long time with PHP and know a little bit of Golang as well.

I enjoy writing shell scripts and anything else to automate things.

I understand and like the security part of the software as well. The same with dev ops, I also like to ship my own code and have knowledge of AWS and GCP.

Experience

AlphaSense
Senior Search Engineer
October 2024 - Present (1 year 4 months)
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

At AlphaSense — a global leader in market intelligence and AI-powered search, trusted by most of the S&P 100 and Fortune 500 — I'm part of the core Search Infrastructure team, ensuring our systems stay fast, reliable, and always available. Search isn't just a feature here — it's the foundation of the product.

What I do:

- Design, build, and maintain Java microservices powering mission-critical search operations.

- Operate and scale services across Kubernetes, Apache Solr (Cloud & Standalone), and Vespa.ai environments handling massive data volumes and high throughput.
 - Drive observability and reliability through advanced alerting — detecting and mitigating issues before users feel impact.
 - Use AI-assisted coding and automation to boost productivity, performance, and security.
- Collaborate across Search, Platform, and Product teams to deliver a robust, scalable, and intelligent search experience.

Impact:

- Support and lead initiatives improving reliability, response time, and cost efficiency across distributed systems.
- Investigate production issues to ensure root cause clarity and continuous improvement.
- Partner across teams to shape the long-term strategy for search infrastructure evolution.

Core Search & Retrieval:

- Maintain and evolve a hybrid search ecosystem combining Vespa (vector + keyword retrieval) and Solr (legacy flows and fallback).
- Support live migration from Solr to Vespa with safe rollout and monitoring.

Engineering & Platform:

- Use AI coding tools like Claude Code and Cursor to enhance quality and code review velocity.
- Contribute to documentation, onboarding, and the Search Guild community for knowledge sharing.
- Ensure smooth operations across multi-cloud environments (AWS, GCP) with full observability and runbooks.

The systems I help build power AlphaSense's global customers — including J.P. Morgan, Microsoft, Salesforce, and Citadel — enabling them to discover insights and make high-stakes decisions with confidence.

Wallapop

Senior Search Engineer

March 2022 - September 2024 (2 years 7 months)

Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

I am working in the search engine of Wallapop, Spain's most used second-hand website.

Some of my current responsibilities involve but are not limited to:

- Create hypotheses and implement A/B test experiments.
- Implement Java microservice to be able to perform user searches and control the search experience with high availability.
- Apache Solr infrastructure maintenance and configuration.

Help the team to improve our ways of working, effectively participating in discussions, improve our processes, quality, and more

Haystack Europe 2023 talk representing Wallapop:

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/strategies-for-using-alternative-queries-to-mitigate-zero-results/267208888>

trivago

Software Engineer

January 2021 - February 2022 (1 year 2 months)

Düsseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

I worked as a backend software engineer in the Hotel Search team. I helped to develop the needed API's to allow searching for the best hotels that match user's criteria, mainly using Java's Spring framework, gRPC, Kafka, and other technologies... Also, everything necessary to run many different micro-services in the GCP Cloud with Kubernetes.

I worked as well with Information Retrieval at trivago again (Solr and Elasticsearch) trying to discover and understand the query written by the users in the search box. There are over 30 languages and 50 countries, and thousands of requests per second, so we need to be quick and assertive.

Since July 2021, trivago has introduced the experts role, and I proudly became the first expert in Information Retrieval. This role entails assisting fellow talents in search-related matters. A big part of what I do and who I am revolves around sharing what I know with others and being open to learning from them. I really enjoy those spontaneous knowledge-sharing moments, whether I'm teaching something or gaining insights from my colleagues.

real.digital

Senior Search Engineer (Elasticsearch)

October 2020 - December 2020 (3 months)
Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Real Digital (now Kaufland) has several thousand merchants and millions of products that are added and updated every second, this makes them one of the largest marketplaces in Germany.

As a newly onboarded Senior Search Engineer, I embarked on the task of setting up the foundational elements of a sophisticated search pipeline within a short timeframe, because offline experimentation was difficult. This involved:

- Assisting in the selection of pertinent metrics for monitoring.
- Contributing to determining the criteria for constructing judgment lists and identifying the pertinent data for evaluating the search experience.
- Proposing strategies for implementing regression tests to ensure that essential metrics required by search engineers are readily accessible.

trivago

Senior Software Engineer / Search Engineer
March 2016 - October 2020 (4 years 8 months)
Düsseldorf Area, Germany

At trivago, I played a crucial role in optimizing the user experience by focusing on their first point of contact: the search box. This feature enabled millions of users worldwide to find the best hotel deals. My team was responsible for providing search suggestions across 30 different languages and 50 countries, making it an indispensable component of the company's search flow.

As a software engineer proficient in Java and Python, my primary responsibility was to ensure that user queries were effectively matched to the internal conceptual entities of our inventory. This involved tasks such as ranking, reranking, sorting, and filtering results. One of our team's core principles was to prioritize writing simple and clean code to avoid outages that could potentially impact the company's finances negatively.

I strongly believe in the importance of readable code and frequently advocate for practices such as writing unit tests (sometimes I do employ test-driven development as well). By doing so, I aim to ensure the simplicity and reliability of our software solutions.

Moreover, I am deeply committed not only to technical excellence but also to understanding and aligning with the business goals of the organization.

This balance is crucial in delivering solutions that not only meet technical requirements but also contribute to the company's overall objectives.

On a personal level, I am dedicated to continual self-improvement, both as a team member and as an individual. I am driven by the desire to contribute positively to the success of the company and to grow both personally and professionally each day.

For your reference, here is a snapshot of the technologies I have experience with: Java, Python, Docker, Kubernetes, Google Cloud, Jenkins, Shell scripts, and more.

Flexy Negócios Digitais

Senior PHP Developer

March 2014 - February 2016 (2 years)

Senior PHP Developer focused on the development of a SaaS (Software as a Service) e-commerce platform highly available, scalable in AWS cloud, using Symfony2, Unit Tests, Service Oriented Architecture, Memcached, Redis, ElasticSearch, ElastiCache, RDS, EC2, ELB, Elastic Beanstalk, and many other services and technologies.

Also working as DevOps doing many improvements in deployment script using both Python and Capistrano. Doing many changes to improve performance (load time) and cost reduction.

Dígitro Tecnologia

System Analyst

September 2012 - March 2014 (1 year 7 months)

Florianópolis Area, Brazil

Dígitro Tecnologia is a big Brazilian company acting in public security systems and call centers management.

I worked as a Java system analyst creating web services to integrate applications of different technologies (including a PABX).

Had used Hibernate, Struts, and low-level sockets to exchange data between the apps and long polling for real-time chat messages, Java NIO for non-blocking HTTP requests, multithreading, Google Web Toolkit as rich frontend, Tomcat 6, and JBoss as application servers.

Chipus Microelectronics

Freelance Software Developer

January 2014 - February 2014 (2 months)

Florianópolis Area, Brazil

I worked as a freelancer software developer to Chipus IP. The goals were to allow fast and semantic search on a MySQL database with about 40 million records and more than 10 Gigabytes of data.

I also automated its database update based on government data with information about imported electronic chips from Brazil in Microsoft Access Database format (.mdb).

Used Sphinx Search to index that database and allow the fastest search response time.

Increased the search performance from ~6/~8 seconds (0.5 million records) to less than 1 second (40 million records).

I did that using Symfony2, PDO, Shell script, Twig, and Bootstrap.

Bookess

PHP Developer

May 2009 - March 2012 (2 years 11 months)

<http://www.bookess.com/>

Bookess is an online selfpublishing system and a social network for book readers.

I started the 2.0 version of this selfpublishing system using the OOP paradigm, Scrum

and other agile techniques.

The challenge was to work with many data types conversion (Docx, Doc, RTF to PDF and

SWF) and serve them in an online book reader.

That was a very helpful experience (the second one in my career) and I also work as a

freelancer for this company nowadays.

We used Subversion as a version control system and a PHP5 framework developed by myself and another teammate to build the platform.

That framework was based on Codeigniter. We also used Phing to automate the deployment.

PHP Conference Brasil

Conferencista

2011 - 2011 (less than a year)

Osasco, São Paulo

Central de Crédito
Desenvolvedor PHP
October 2008 - October 2009 (1 year 1 month)

Fui programador PHP da empresa. Criei um sistema para uso interno que mantia clientes, transações financeiras, comissões e folha ponto dos funcionários. Mantive a rede de computadores da empresa e fazia a configuração dos ATA's para utilização da tecnologia VOIP. Implementei um servidor GNU/Linux com sistema firewall e proxy para controle de acessos e segurança do ambiente.

Education

Senai/SC

Technologist, Analysis and systems development · (2010 - 2012)