Alexander Chaika

Software Engineer

Python Backend Engineer with 17+ years of experience designing and operating high-availability systems in fintech, ad-tech, and data-intensive domains. Deep expertise in distributed architectures, AWS cloud, and data platforms. Recent focus on AI-enabled services including RAG, vector search, and LLM integrations. Proven track record delivering scalable APIs, improving system reliability, and driving performance optimization in production.

Professional Experience

Core competencies: Python, Django/FastAPI, PostgreSQL, AWS

Languages: Python, SQL, Javascript, HTML/CSS, PHP, Rust, Ruby, C++, Bash

Frameworks and technologies: Django REST Framework, Asyncio/Aiohttp, FastAPI, Flask, Celery/RQ, Pandas/NumPy/OpenCV

Databases: PostgreSQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, MongoDB, Snowflake, Neo4j

Distributed systems: Kafka, RabbitMQ, Airflow, ETL pipelines

AI: RAG, LangChain, HuggingFace, Perplexity

Third-party APIs: Stripe, Plaid, Authorize.net, LeanPlum, Salesforce, Solana, Equifax, Solid/Unit/Passport, Mandrill/Mailchimp/Mailgun

Cloud and DevOps: AWS (ECS, RDS, S3, Lambda, API Gateway, SQS, SNS, WAF), Docker, Terraform/CDK, GitHub Actions

Management and Modeling Tools: Linear, JIRA, Miro, Figma

Practices: System design, performance tuning, observability, secure SDLC

Education

Master of Computer Applications - Polotsk State University
Associate Degree, Economics - Moscow Modern University for the Humanities

Hobbies

Electronics, architecture, music production, photo

Major projects

Lead Backend Engineer - Piñata (Fintech / Credit Building, US)

Mar 2020 - Nov 2025 | Python, Django, PostgreSQL, AWS, RAG

- Designed and implemented core backend services and APIs for a rent-rewards and credit-building platform (reporting to Experian/TransUnion/Equifax).
- Led the migration from a single server to containerized ECS on AWS, improving scalability, resilience, and deployment speed.
- Built an AI-powered RAG service for customer success, enabling semantic search over support knowledge and cutting ticket resolution time.
- Drove systematic refactoring and performance work on legacy code to stabilize production financial workflows.

Senior Backend Engineer - Kids Academy (EdTech, US)

Feb 2019 - Mar 2020 | Python, Django, DRF, PostgreSQL, Kafka, AWS

- Designed the authentication subsystem, REST APIs, and caching for high-traffic web and mobile clients.
- Led key performance and reliability improvements, including infrastructure upgrades on AWS.

Senior Backend Engineer - Artspace (E-commerce, EU)

Sep 2017 - Dec 2018 | Python, Django, MySQL, Magento

- Integrated Django services with Magento storefront and optimized critical code paths and queries for faster checkout and catalog operations.

Backend Engineer - Club Automation (SaaS, US)

Jun 2015 - May 2017 | Python, Django, PHP, MySQL

- Built backend modules (reporting, user profiles, ETL) for a club management SaaS platform and led migration to a new platform with minimal downtime.

Backend Engineer - GeoNet (AdTech / RTB, UK)

Jan 2013 - Feb 2015 | Python, C++, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB

- Worked on a high-performance RTB platform (10k+ RPS), optimizing SQL, designing data models, and implementing geo-targeted bidding logic.