Revaz Zakalashvili

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Summary

Tech Lead / Senior Full-stack Engineer with 10+ years building and operating B2B SaaS systems end-to-end. Strong in backend architecture (Python/Django/DRF), AWS infrastructure, CI/CD automation, observability, and pragmatic zero-downtime delivery. Experienced in cross-functional collaboration and stakeholder communication–partnering with product owners on roadmap planning, feasibility evaluation, and translating specs into implementation details for engineers across backend, frontend, and infra. Data-driven and customer-focused: comfortable using analytics and customer feedback loops to prioritise improvements. Proven track record stabilising production systems, increasing release velocity, and improving reliability and performance.

Experience

Full-stack Software Engineer @ GLM/Kilo   April 2021 - September 2025

B2B SaaS for gyms, coaches, and athletes. Owned planning-to-production execution across backend systems, frontend platform, CI/CD, testing, and AWS infrastructure. Worked closely with product owners and stakeholders on roadmap planning, feasibility evaluation, and delivery planning.

- Co-led cross-functional collaboration across engineering, product, and operations: evaluated feasibility, defined technical approach/trade-offs, and translated product specs into implementation details across backend, frontend, infra, and support workflows.
- Built and scaled backend services in Python/Django/DRF, prioritising data integrity, maintainable abstractions, and performance for a multi-role SaaS product with hundreds of thousands of users.
- Introduced a modular backend architecture by extracting shared Django ORM/models into a reusable package, reducing duplication, improving consistency across services, accelerating delivery, and simplifying onboarding for new engineers.
- Designed and operated AWS infrastructure from scratch (ALB, ASG, Launch Templates, EC2, RDS, ECS/Fargate, ECR, Lambda), implementing safe rollout patterns and enabling frequent production releases.
- Implemented deployment automation and operational tooling (Ansible + Bash) and CI/CD pipelines (CircleCI), supporting unlimited production deploys/day and reducing deploy time from ~10 minutes to ~4–5 minutes.
- Took ownership of infrastructure reliability and operations and achieved 12+ months with zero customer-impacting downtime by improving release processes, rollout strategy, and observability/alerting practices.
- Re-architected the React/TypeScript frontend multiple times as the product scaled (from Redux to React Query, stricter TypeScript, improved module boundaries, routing/state refactors, reusable UI conventions), strengthening maintainability and reducing integration errors.
- Improved scalability and performance through targeted optimisations (Dockerfile improvements, ECS/Fargate migration for engines and daemon workloads, and safer service boundaries); maintained high availability with ALB health checks and controlled rollout patterns.
- Implemented innovative problem-solving approaches to reduce operational complexity: moved outbound proxy-style integrations to AWS Lambda where appropriate and routed outbound traffic through a controlled single Elastic IP to enable third-party whitelisting and improve security.
- Established testing practices from zero by introducing pytest + Playwright across unit/integration/E2E layers, and encouraged load/stress testing practices (e.g., Locust) to validate performance and reliability.
- Supported a customer feedback loop with product owners by triaging production issues, validating impact, and prioritising roadmap improvements based on usage patterns and operational signals.

Tech stack: **Python, Django, PostgreSQL, React, TypeScript, Cypress, Pytest, Playwright, CircleCi, AWS.**

Full-stack Software Engineer @ Eduflow   April 2019 - October 2020

Contributed to the design and delivery of multiple production platforms (Eduflow, Peergrade, Notifly), working closely with product and design on technical and UX decisions.

- Collaborated cross-functionally with product and design to translate customer needs into UI workflows and platform improvements.
- Designed and implemented complex frontend architecture in React/TypeScript, including extensible editing workflows and state-heavy UI components.
- Built advanced UI features such as drag-and-drop navigation, contextual menus, and media editing tools, balancing flexibility with maintainability.
- Implemented responsive layouts, mobile optimisations, and accessibility improvements across the application.
- Developed account management and authorisation flows, integrating frontend and backend concerns.
- Contributed to backend development using Python (Django) and GraphQL (Graphene/Relay), working with data models and APIs.

Tech stack: **Python, Django, Graphene, PostgreSQL, Redis, GraphQL, Relay, React, TypeScript, CSS, Webpack, Selenium.**

Software Engineer @ AzRy   August 2016 - February 2018
- Contributed to large-scale, high-impact projects including the Legislative Herald of Georgia and the World Food Programme
- Designed and implemented custom modules for Drupal 7/8, focusing on complex document processing and presentation workflows
- Built a parallel document viewing system handling unstructured, non-identical HTML content with synchronised scrolling and interaction
- Led accessibility improvements to achieve compliance with WCAG and WAI-ARIA standards across the application
- Developed assistive features including a Georgian-language text-to-speech system to improve content accessibility
- Integrated and maintained supporting systems such as live chat and document management workflows
Tech stack: PHP, Drupal 7, Drupal 8, JavaScript.

Software Engineer @ Origin Eight   March 2017 - Jul 2017
- Developed and maintained custom Drupal 8 modules and themes for client-facing applications
- Contributed to backend logic, frontend behaviour, and CMS extensibility within a production environment
Tech stack: PHP, Drupal 8, JavaScript, CSS.

Software Engineer @ Geocell   August 2014 - Jan 2016
- Built internal tools to improve productivity of customer support and technical teams
- Designed and implemented a Node.js service aggregating data from multiple databases (MongoDB, MySQL) to provide unified access to user information
- Developed a company-wide Chrome extension with custom key bindings and contextual calculations, significantly reducing incident response time
- Automated operational workflows using Python scripts to streamline file and server management tasks
Tech stack: Python, NodeJS, Express, JavaScript, MongoDB, Mysql.

Software Engineer @ Omedia   December 2013 - July 2014
- Developed responsive websites and custom modules using Drupal 7, integrating third-party services
- Built reusable frontend architectures and implemented advanced CSS animations and interactions
Tech stack: PHP, Drupal 7, JavaScript, jQuery, CSS, Gulp.

Software Engineer @ ITDC   May 2013 - October 2013
- Built responsive frontend websites with scalable CSS architecture
- Worked on build tooling and frontend automation pipelines
Tech stack: jQuery, VanillaJS, Gulp, Grunt, Compass, Sass.

Community involvement

Co-founder & Co-Organiser @ uniHack   December 2013 - December 2015
- Co-founded and organised four international university hackathons in Tbilisi, Georgia
- Coordinated technical tracks, participants, and mentors, fostering early engineering communities

Education

Computer Science, B.S. (coursework completed)

Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia

High academic standing (GPA 3.75), among top students in the School of Technology

Transitioned to full-time professional work prior to degree completion