Soo Kyung Ahn

Software Engineer

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SUMMARY

Pragmatic software engineer with 3.5+ years of experience building reliable, production-grade backend systems in the payments and digital goods space. Proven track record in shipping high-impact digital goods services (money transfer, digital vouchers, airtime, lotto, prepaid utilities) to South Africa's top banks and retailers. Skilled in building modular, testable systems in Java and Python, with hands-on expertise in AWS, Kubernetes, Kafka, and observability tooling.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Electrum Payments | 2022–2025

Digital Goods and Services Team

- Led the development and maintenance of backend services for digital goods (airtime, vouchers, money transfers, lotto), powering high-volume transactions across South Africa's top banks and national retailers.
- Engineered modular, plugin-based service components that enabled rapid feature delivery and robust testability across a shared payments platform.
- Service deployment and lifecycle management on AWS-backed Kubernetes (EKS), owning Istio routing, rollout orchestration, and runtime diagnostics.
- Partnered with DevOps to integrate core infrastructure including cloud messaging (Kafka, SQS/SNS), DNS (Route53), and observability stacks into developer workflows.
- Designed Kibana dashboards and Elasticsearch queries for real-time operational visibility and business-critical monitoring.
- Played a key role in delivering complex, multi-product client launches in collaboration with cross-functional engineering teams.
- Prototyped internal AI-powered tools including an LLM-based code review bot and automated ticket triage system to streamline engineering and support workflows.
- Development practicing pragmatic engineering principles, driving test automation (JUnit, Mockito), code quality (SonarQube), and CI/CD reliability across the team.

SKILLS

Languages: Java (expert), Python, JavaScript, SQL, Bash
Frameworks & Architecture: In-house Java backend framework, modular/plugin-based systems, JUnit, Mockito, Lombok
Cloud & DevOps: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda, RDS, CloudWatch, Secrets Manager, Route53, SQS/SNS, ELB), Docker, Kubernetes (EKS, Istio), CircleCI, GitHub Actions
Observability & Data: Elasticsearch, Kibana, Prometheus, Grafana, SonarQube
Tools & Practices: Git, Code Reviews, CI/CD, Semi-Agile, Mentorship
Other: Kafka Streams, YAML (K8s), GitHub, IDE plugins, ticket routing automation, LLM tooling (OpenAI API)

EDUCATION

University of Cape Town | 2018–2021

Honours in Computer Science

- First class GPA

University of Cape Town | 2018–2020

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Applied Statistics

- Dean's Merit List
- Distinction