

# Alex Chen

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## Professional Summary

Software Development Engineer with 5+ years building backend and event-driven systems. Strong on production-quality code, testing, and operational ownership (monitoring, incident response, postmortems). Comfortable designing reliable services with clear API contracts, rate limiting, and observability in cloud environments.

## Core Skills

- Languages: Java, Python, Go (proficient); Bash (working)
- Distributed systems: APIs, async processing, idempotency, retries, backpressure, consistency tradeoffs
- AWS: IAM, VPC, EC2/ECS, Lambda, S3, DynamoDB, SQS/SNS, CloudWatch, KMS (hands-on)
- Quality: unit/integration tests, CI/CD, code reviews, performance profiling, secure coding basics

## Work Experience

**Senior Backend Engineer** - CloudScale Platform (Remote (EMEA)) 2022-2026

- Designed and shipped a rate-limited API gateway with per-tenant quotas and abuse protection; improved p95 latency and reduced noisy-neighbor impact
- Built an event-driven worker system (queue + consumers) with idempotency keys, retries, and dead-letter handling; increased throughput and reduced failure loops
- Implemented service-level dashboards and alerting (latency, error budgets, queue depth); led on-call rotations and wrote post-incident remediation plans
- Improved reliability via timeouts, circuit breakers, and structured error taxonomy; standardized runbooks for common failure modes

**Software Engineer** - FinTech Payments (Lisbon, PT) 2019-2022

- Developed APIs for payment workflows with strict correctness requirements; added integration tests and contract checks
- Optimized database access patterns and caching; reduced hot-path response times
- Collaborated with security/compliance on least-privilege access and audit logging

## Selected Projects

- Observability toolkit: standardized logging/metrics conventions and a lightweight tracing wrapper for internal services
- Streaming pipeline prototype: batch-to-stream migration proof of concept using queue semantics and exactly-once-ish processing patterns

## Education

- BSc, Computer Science (or equivalent experience) - 2019