

Viktor Shinkevich

Staff Software Engineer—Distributed Systems & Cloud Architecture

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Staff-level backend engineer with STEM (Bachelor Computer Science), 11+ years building scalable, high-availability platforms for millions of users, focused on distributed, event-driven, and cloud-native architectures.

No visa sponsorship required now or in the future.

Golang, Ruby, Rails, NodeJS, Elixir, PHP, Rust. AWS, GCP, SQL, NoSQL, Kafka, Elasticsearch.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Backend Software Engineer | ZEALS AI

Dec 2024–Present

Social chat commerce startup, B2B. 50\$M+ investments, 350 headcount, 70+ tech. Crossfunctional INTEGRATIONS team (10 members) of distributed event-driven system handling millions of events.

Golang, Protobuf, GCP pub/sub, gRPC, Kubernetes, Helm, Argo, Redis, OpenTelemetry, Grafana

- Enhanced observability by integrating OpenTelemetry for end-to-end distributed tracing and building various Grafana dashboards and metrics
- Implemented per-channel outbound rate limiting (sliding-window algorithm) to enforce API quotas (300 RPS) for external chat platforms, preventing bans under peak load
- Consolidated tenant-based deployments into stack-based model, reducing Kubernetes cluster count and multi-tenant overhead—cut monthly infrastructure costs from \$350K (!) to \$60K
- Built URL-shortening microservice for conversion-tracking (aka inhouse tinyurl/bitly)

Lead Golang Engineer | ecom.tech

Jan 2023–December 2024

Giant 150M monthly visitors Ecommerce platform, C2C & B2B (similar to Zalando, Amazon, Alibaba). 4000 headcount. Lead of crossfunctional CATALOG/LISTING team (22 members) - mission critical microservices listing 500K merchants with 80M catalog items

Golang, Elasticsearch, Redis, Kafka, Kubernetes, Helm, Argo, Prometheus, Grafana, OpenTelemetry, gRPC

- Strengthened service observability with comprehensive metrics, alerting, and OpenTelemetry integration on high-throughput catalog APIs.
- Optimized backend latency and infrastructure efficiency through smart caching and reduced Elasticsearch overfetch, directly impacting microservices at 24,000 RPS.
- Introduced and migrated critical data pipelines to Kafka, maintaining scalable ingestion for a 160-node Elasticsearch cluster.
- Refactored monolithic API gateway into modular codebases, supporting seamless migration to Kubernetes orchestration.
- Launched in-house URL tracker supporting marketing analytics and seamless redirects for 80M catalog items.
- Mentored a team of 4 engineers, implementing OKRs, enforcing code review standards, and driving consistent engineering best practices.

Senior Software Engineer L5 | RunaHR

Nov 2020–January 2023

YC'W18 payroll software, B2B startup. 200+ headcount, 50 tech. Worked at multiple teams.

Ruby, NodeJS, Go, Rust, PHP, AWS, SQS, SNS, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, CircleCI

- Led a 7-engineer team to provide 50k+ employees access to enterprise-discounted pricing on insurances by designing and building from scratch a brand new Insurance app, integrating existing infrastructure with insurance brokers
- Rewrote legacy AWS Lambda microservices from nodeJS and PHP to Rust including critical AUTH APIs with facial recognition functionality reducing time of cold starts and billing time by 400+%, saving money and improving user experience.
- Improved circle CI pipeline reducing build time FROM 55 minutes(!) TO 8, saving a lot of CircleCI credits and engineers time.
- Introduced Domain Driven Design and Functional programming practices to the team, improving engineers productivity.
- Led company-wide keynotes (200+ attendees) and workshops

Senior Backend Software Developer S3 | EPAM Systems

Nov 2018–November 2020

50k+ corporate consulting. Client - Genentech (Roche group). Crossfunctional team of 18 members.

Ruby, Go, Java, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Elasticsearch, Redis, AWS, Gitlab

- Guided technical decision-making including DB migration (MySQL to PostgreSQL) and Elasticsearch integration, significantly improving API and UX performance.
- Reduced API latency with targeted ORM optimizations, bespoke queries, and data denormalization techniques.
- Increased engineering throughput by refining code review processes, teaching core system design concepts, and refactoring legacy modules.
- Played an instrumental role in talent acquisition, evaluating and selecting 5 new engineering hires.

Backend Software Developer | BlaBlaCar

Dec 2016–November 2018

Bus tickets startup (BBC acquisition) - 0.5M daily users, 70+ headcount, 13 members team.

Ruby, Elixir, PostgreSQL, Redis, AWS

- Improved user experience on critical pages by reducing backend API response time via efficient ORM usage, custom Postgresql querying, Redis caching external data provider's responses, and optimized business logic algorithms
- Increased speed of features delivery by lowering maintenance burden through high-quality refactoring of most complex pieces of the codebase, usage of software architecture patterns, the introduction of best practices, coaching, and hosting knowledge-sharing classes
- Boosted application performance by shrinking elements of the monolith into separate microservices
- Designed and led the integration of the bus passengers check-in app.

PHP Developer | avtovokzaly.ru

Nov 2014–December 2016

Bootstrapped small company selling bus tickets for 150.000 daily visitors. 7 People headcount, 4->6 tech.

PHP, Javascript, MySQL, Memcached, Sphinx search, linux

- Raised conversion and session duration by reworking UI based on analytics-driven research.
- Doubled server response speed (0.2s to 0.1s) by upgrading PHP versions, optimizing MySQL queries, and deploying DataMapper caching.
- Expanded product coverage through robust integrations with third-party inventory providers, leveraging RabbitMQ for data syncing.
- Delivered a new B2B portal, onboarding 20% more carriers through increased inventory acquisition.
- Accelerated backend feature delivery by implementing process improvements and modularizing the codebase.

Technical Support Specialist | Renaissance Insurance | Remote

Apr 2014–November 2014

Giant insurance company, 200+ members internal support team, 4 members of 3rd line of tech support.

- Resolved ERP user tickets, improving SLA performance from 48 to 12 hours.
- Documented clear Jira requirements and validated fixes, enhancing team communication and QA output.

EDUCATION

Tver State University 2021

Bachelor, Mathematics and Applied Informatics

Other

Active self learner, mostly books and tech blogs. My favorites reading list https://github.com/shinkevichdev/read_it

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

Kubernetes

Golang

Ruby on Rails

Node.js

Elasticsearch

Distributed Systems

Microservices Architecture

Event-Driven Systems

OpenTelemetry

Kafka

Redis

Software Architecture

Mentoring & Team Leadership