

Juraj Kucera

Senior Staff Engineer

AI-native engineering · Java & distributed systems · 15 years

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London, UK · British and Slovak (EU) citizen

Hands-on engineer and architect: **15 years of Java and distributed systems** in payments, trading and banking, now building production systems with **AI agents in the loop**. Currently leading a team of six on **Checkout** at J.P. Morgan Payments, the merchant-facing online payments product.

- **Checkout at J.P. Morgan** · POC to production in a year · 12× throughput · 12+ months with no high-severity incident
- **Agentic engineering inside a bank** · deployment, testing and incident-triage workflows inside change control
- **Agent-native products** · agent API and Python SDK for AI trading agents · LLM ops assistant over live telemetry

Open to staff IC roles and select contract engagements, remote or on-site in London.

SKILLS

AI & agents	Claude Code, Codex, Copilot · subagent orchestration · MCP · LLM tool-calling · agent APIs & SDKs
Backend	Java 17–25 · Spring Boot, WebFlux · Kafka · Apache Flink · gRPC · event-driven, idempotent, reactive
Cloud & ops	AWS (certified) · Kubernetes · Terraform · PostgreSQL · Elasticsearch · Datadog · GitLab CI/CD

EXPERIENCE

Senior Staff Engineer · J.P. Morgan Payments, London

May 2023 – present

Java 17 · Spring · Kafka · PostgreSQL · gRPC · React / TypeScript · Datadog · AWS

Internal title: Senior Lead Software Engineer, SVP.

- **Lead a team of 6 engineers building and operating Checkout**, J.P. Morgan Payments' merchant-facing online payments product (payment form and payment links): live merchants, 24/7 production traffic, team distributed from India to the US West Coast.
- **Took the product from POC to production within the first year**: led identity and merchant configuration, including the embedded authorisation flow, unified payment profiles and multi-payment-method onboarding on Kafka-backed async flows.
- **Own the production release lifecycle end to end**; co-designed a staged, controls-first release pipeline with the staff engineers that has kept the platform free of high-severity (P2) incidents for 12+ months.
- **Drove a 12× throughput increase (10 to 120 TPS)** through systematic performance and load testing, creating headroom for merchant transaction growth.
- **Built agentic AI workflows** that automate and harden deployment and testing within change control, and an agentic triage workflow over Datadog and AWS Athena that shortens incident root-cause analysis.
- Built the Datadog dashboards and runbooks used by the team and support; author and present RCAs at engineering-review forums; set the team's ways of working, coding standards, onboarding and mentoring.

Specialist contract engagements · Goldman Sachs and Bank of America, London Dec 2022 – May 2023

Java 17 · Slang · Spring Boot · Angular · OpenShift · Oracle

- **Goldman Sachs, FX trading** (Mar – May 2023): built an account rebalancer that auto-adjusts positions against benchmark models.
- **Bank of America** (Dec 2022 – Feb 2023): lead developer for the Metrics Application API layer; migrated Tableau reporting to a Spring Boot and Angular web application with architects, the data team and front-end developers.

Low-Latency Java Engineer · William Hill, London

CONTRACT

Mar 2022 – Nov 2022

Java 17 · Spring Boot · Netty · Reactor · Kafka · Apache Flink · Elasticsearch · GraphQL · Kubernetes · Terraform

- **Productionised a greenfield low-latency platform within months**; every client API met its p95 latency target.
- **Designed and led the Kafka and Flink non-blocking streaming pipeline**, syncing processed events to Diffusion and Elasticsearch in near real time; optimised the critical Elasticsearch queries to meet latency requirements.
- Architected and led a third-party translation-service integration; built the complex asynchronous flows on Spring WebFlux.
- Terraformed OpenSearch, Kafka topics and New Relic alerting; built the team's GitLab CI/CD pipelines; mentored new joiners.

Senior Software Engineer · T. Rowe Price, London (remote)

CONTRACT

May 2020 – Mar 2022

Java 11 · Dropwizard · gRPC · PostgreSQL · AWS · Angular / RxJS

- **Built the MVP of the analytics platform** used by quants and financial analysts, delivering value iteratively from day one.
- High-performance gRPC streaming APIs; an internal job mechanism to trigger and monitor asynchronous processes; caching and read replicas to reach performance targets.
- Owned quality end to end in a team without dedicated QA: automation tests, detailed monitoring and client-support discipline to meet project SLAs; reactive Angular / RxJS front ends for data-heavy workflows.

Earlier roles

2012 – 2020

Full-Stack Developer, GVC, London (2019–2020) · **Full-Stack Developer**, Kainos for the UK Ministry of Justice, London (2018–2019) · **Senior Java Developer**, Deutsche Bank, London (2017–2018) · **Java Developer**, Argus Software, London (2015–2017) · **Java Developer**, BetVictor, Budapest (2014–2015) · **Java Developer**, AdNovum, Budapest (2012–2014)

INDEPENDENT WORK

SwingLab app.swinglab.site

Agent-native market-judgment layer: glass-box signals and scores for 9,500+ securities, consumed by AI trading agents through an agent API with personal tokens, a Python SDK and a CLI. Java 25 · Spring Boot 4 · PostgreSQL

SBM Fizikus sbmfizikus.com

Smart building management for apartment blocks: MQTT and Modbus controllers, telemetry to the cloud every 15 seconds, a per-room climate app, and an LLM operations assistant (FastAPI, tool calls into Postgres, model-agnostic via OpenRouter). Python · MQTT / Modbus · AWS

Fly Cheap flycheap.today

Ryanair and Wizz Air return fares from seven Central European airports, refreshed through the day, with price history. Python · SQLite · Next.js

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Óbuda University, John von Neumann 2008 – 2012

Faculty of Informatics, Budapest

Computer Science. Coursework completed 2012; degree awarded 2023.

AWS Certified Developer – Associate

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate

WRITING

Two Writes, One Truth medium.com/@jurajkuera

May 2026: the dual-write problem and the transactional outbox, written for engineers running Kafka and a database with money on the line.