

Gidraf Orenja Mtange

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer with 9+ years delivering high-availability, API-driven platforms across FinTech, digital payments, e-commerce and agri-tech. Designs integration architectures and microservices that turn constrained legacy systems into reusable platforms, and partners with DevOps, QA and security teams to introduce the CI/CD, blue-green deployment and automated-testing practices that enable continuous delivery. Works across the stack — React, Next.js and Angular on the frontend; Node.js and Spring Boot services on the backend — and is valued for mentoring engineers, leading code and design reviews, and authoring clear technical documentation.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, Kotlin, SQL
Backend & Services	Spring / Spring Boot, Node.js, REST APIs, Microservices, Multi-threaded Services, Application Servers
Frontend	React / Redux, Next.js, Angular, HTML5, CSS3
Data & Caching	PostgreSQL & Relational Databases, Data Modeling, Redis, MongoDB
DevOps & Cloud	Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD (GitLab), Blue-Green Deployments, PaaS, 12-Factor App Design, Linux / Unix Shell Scripting
AI Engineering	LangChain, LangGraph, Langfuse, AI-assisted Product Development Lifecycle (AI PDLC)
Quality	Playwright, Selenium, Jest, Pytest, Test-Driven & Behaviour-Driven Development
Practices	System Architecture, High-Availability Design, Code & Design Reviews, Mentoring, Technical Documentation, Agile

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Safaricom PLC — Home & Fibre Jan 2026 – Present

Senior Software Engineer Nairobi, Kenya

- Helping the Home & Fibre engineering team raise delivery throughput by introducing the continuous-delivery practices proven on earlier platforms — blue-green deployments, feature flagging and automated pull-request testing.
- Partnering with frontend and backend engineers to streamline the release pipeline toward a predictable, repeatable delivery cadence.
- Contributing across the stack, supporting backend service work alongside core frontend responsibilities and sharing delivery practices through mentoring.

Safaricom PLC — DigiFarm Jan 2024 – Dec 2025

Software Engineer Nairobi, Kenya

DigiFarm Buyer Portal — a platform connecting produce buyers with smallholder farmers, supporting quality-based payments and farmer-collection management.

- Built and shipped the Buyer Portal MVP, owning the full frontend through first release and contributing backend microservices alongside the backend team.
- Designed and rolled out **blue-green deployment environments** with DevOps, removing environment contention between development, QA and security and enabling near-continuous delivery.
- Introduced **feature flagging** across the codebase so each change could be released independently and targeted to selected UAT or production users, reducing release risk and unblocking parallel work.
- Co-created a **build-promotion pipeline** that builds a Docker image once and promotes the same artifact through every environment, and added **ephemeral preview environments** with Playwright automation to GitLab merge requests — cutting compute usage and letting QA and security validate changes without local setup.
- As onboarding lead for new engineers, mentored joiners, ran code and design reviews, and owned the team's engineering documentation; helped stand up a self-hosted **Langfuse** instance to manage prompts for the team's AI chatbot (LangChain / LangGraph).
- Together these practices supported a weekly feature cadence and contributed to DigiFarm reaching operational break-even and securing renewed board funding.

Co-operative Bank of Kenya (Contract via Techsavanna)

Sep 2022 – Dec 2023

Software Engineer

Nairobi, Kenya

- Architected an **integration middleware layer** that decoupled the bank's mobile and web clients from legacy core-banking and internet-banking APIs, enabling modern app development without altering a contractually frozen legacy codebase.
- Built the layer in Node.js with **Redis** as a caching and tokenization store for authentication sessions, replacing server-rendered jQuery pages with clean REST services consumed directly by client applications.
- Established a reusable platform foundation the bank has continued to build on — including the Yea youth-banking app, pioneered during the engagement, and the rebuilt MCo-op Cash Android application.
- Contributed to delivery of the KCEP digital platform supporting county-government entities.
- Partnered with QA and security to introduce automated testing into the codebase, improving release stability and cutting regression defects by roughly half.

Tracom Services Limited

Oct 2019 – May 2020

Software Developer

Nairobi, Kenya

Card-payments and point-of-sale technology provider.

- Began career building backend services, developing reporting microservices that improved accounting-team throughput during month-end and invoice-generation peaks.
- Built an SMS notification microservice for rider-SACCO payment reminders, improving payment-response and revenue-collection rates.
- Contributed frontend and operational improvements to the ride-hailing platform, supporting steady growth in active usage.

Andela Kenya

Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

Junior Software Developer

Nairobi, Kenya

- Completed Andela's intensive software-engineering program and joined the apprenticeship delivering outsourced software for international clients.
- Served as team captain for a group of junior developers, coordinating delivery, quality and morale — an early grounding in technical leadership.

EDUCATION

BSc, Applied Computing

KCA University

Software Engineering Program

Andela Kenya

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

St Columban's Secondary School

Publication

Engineering articles — Andela Engineering Blog