Kolya Garbalau, Software Engineer (Staff/Lead)

garbalaunick@gmail.com | GitHub | LinkedIn | Phone: +373 69 654201 | 8+ years | AI, Product, Cloud | Relocation OK

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Staff Software Engineer at DigiStorms (Nov 2025 – Present)
Technical co-founder of a French B2B SaaS; took the product from zero to paying customers.

- Built a B2B email campaign platform (Python/FastAPI, React/Next.js) with a custom campaign editor, multi-tenant REST APIs, AI personalization features, and webhook integrations.
- Implemented structured LLM generation (system prompts + schema-driven outputs) to produce HTML email variants across hundreds of use cases, with validation and fallback logic to prevent broken templates and formatting regressions.
- Deployed and operated a production AWS platform (EKS/Fargate/EC2/Lambda/S3) with Terraform, Docker, and GitHub Actions CI/CD, supporting scaling, reliability, and Stripe billing.

Lead Software Engineer at Dispensed Global, contracted via Interactivated (Feb 2025 – Nov 2025)
Lead engineer; managed a team of five to build the entire product from scratch and deliver an MVP in two months.

- Owned the backend architecture (Node.js/TypeScript, Supabase, PostgreSQL, Edge Functions): event-driven workflows for patient onboarding, prescription polling, billing, and PDF document generation.
- Implemented asynchronous processing patterns (scheduled polling, idempotency, retries with fallbacks, workflow state tracking) to keep clinical and billing flows reliable under failures and high traffic.
- Built the mobile app (React Native/Expo) covering onboarding, prescriptions, payments, document delivery, and user communications.
- Integrated external systems: Typeform, Semble (clinical), Chargebee (billing), and Resend (email).

Senior Software Engineer at PetSmart, contracted via Grid Dynamics (Mar 2024 – Feb 2025)
Senior engineer on a U.S. high-traffic e-commerce platform, focusing on customer-facing UX and platform foundations.

- Drove design system work, UI/UX redesign, and new customer-facing services (Node.js, TypeScript, React, Storybook).
- Migrated legacy services to a Kafka-driven architecture, increasing system resilience and scalability to handle 1M+ daily events.
- Owned search and product discovery improvements using Algolia (indexing, relevance tuning, facets), supporting catalog flows.
- Set up product analytics instrumentation (events, funnels, dashboards) and strengthened reliability and observability with Sentry monitoring and performance tracing.

Senior Software Engineer at Anima, Y Combinator S18 (Apr 2023 – Feb 2024)
Founding-stage engineer on an AI-powered Figma-to-code product used by 1.7M designers and developers.

- Built and scaled core backend APIs (Python, Flask, MongoDB, Redis, Docker) to support high-volume AI workloads.
- Owned the AI code generation layer: maintained a library of system prompts and personalization rules, and built a Python engine that converts Figma nodes into an intermediate AST for consistent, structured output.
- Delivered CI/CD and release automation (Travis CI), E2E automation (Cypress, Ghost Inspector), and production monitoring (Sentry).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer at Endava (Mar 2022 – Apr 2023)

Software Engineer at Fortune, contracted via 3Pillar (Oct 2021 – Mar 2022)

Software Engineer at USA Link System (Sep 2019 – Oct 2021)

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), USARB (2019 – 2021)

Tech Stack: Python (FastAPI, Flask), Node.js, REST/OpenAPI, GraphQL, gRPC, WebSockets, Webhooks, Microservices, Event-Driven Systems, React, Next.js, TypeScript, React Native (Expo), Storybook, SSR/SSG/ISR, AWS (EKS, ECS/Fargate, EC2, Lambda, S3, CloudFront, IAM, VPC), Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, GitHub Actions, Linux, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, Supabase, Sentry, CloudWatch, LLM integrations, Prompt Engineering, VibeSDK, AI Agents