

Nikos Kougianos

Java Team Lead

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Java enthusiast with a B.Sc. in Computer Science and a M.Sc. in Data Science, bringing over 7 years of professional experience in software development. For the past 3 years, I have gained deep expertise in the iGaming industry and microservice-based architectures, specializing in creating scalable, efficient applications that drive organizational success.

EXPERIENCE

Java team lead - Full time contract

April 2025 – Present

Playnetic (Casino Dpt.)

United Kingdom (Remote)

- Designed and improved high-performance core backend services, focusing on scalability, reliability, and seamless support for different integrations and back-office systems.
- Partnered with product owners to convert diverse operator requirements into unified, reusable components, increasing delivery speed and cross-market consistency.
- Implemented automated session finalization logic to safely handle incomplete or abandoned rounds, ensuring correct server-side actions and durable state persistence.

Stack:

Java 21, Spring Boot 3, Apache Kafka, Redis, Cassandra DB, PostgreSQL

Senior Software Engineer (Java) - Full time contract

August 2022 – April 2025

BVGroup (Gaming/Casino Dpt.)

Gibraltar (Remote)

- Enhanced an internal marketing tool, resulting in a 30% performance improvement and seamless integration with future 3rd party APIs.
- Streamlined promotions tool by refactoring the frontend and backend, consolidating integrations into a unified UI and introducing a simplified UI to operators.
- Developed and maintained microservices for seamless integration with 3rd party game providers, ensuring fault tolerance during authentication, game launches and transactions.
- Implemented a reactive, non-blocking architecture for efficient communication between microservices, optimizing performance and enabling scalable growth. Utilized Apache Kafka and Spring Reactive libraries.

Stack:

Java 21, Spring Boot 3, Apache Kafka, Redis, MongoDB, Spring Reactive (Webflux), Junit5 (Mockito), testcontainers, Karate (BDD), GCP, Javascript

Lead Engineer (Java) - 3-month contract

July 2024 – September 2024

Khantech (Casino & Sportsbook)

Dubai (Remote)

- Architected and developed the core wallet service and critical backend systems, including transaction history, player history, session management (Redis), and a comprehensive Casino API for seamless integration with the frontend.
- Led end-to-end integrations with TimelessTech for casino operations and Betby for sportsbook functionalities, enabling efficient game launches and real-time transaction handling.
- Implemented an event-driven architecture using Apache Kafka to support scalable, asynchronous communication across microservices.

Stack:

Java 21, Spring Boot 3, Apache Kafka, Redis, MongoDB, Spring Reactive (Webflux), Kubernetes

Software Engineer (Java) - Full time

January 2022 – August 2022

Atos

Athens, Greece (Remote)

- Worked on a microservice-based Healthcare Interoperability application, delivered to various clients from the health industry.
- Introduced an asynchronous multithreaded approach for database lookups by using Spring's built-in functionalities, improving response times by over 40%.
- Implemented a Role Based Access Control mechanism using Spring Security and token generation/authentication.

Stack:

Java 17, Spring Boot, Maven, Microsoft Azure, PostgreSQL, Junit, Mockito, RestAssured, HAPI-FHIR (server & java client)

Software Engineer (Java) - Full time

July 2019 - January 2022

Hellenic Telecommunications Organization S.A.

Athens, Greece

- Designed and developed Communication Hub, an internal group of microservices responsible for transmitting over 1 million SMS/Emails/Push Notifications to end users on a daily basis.
- Implemented scalable integration microservices assisting in the interconnection of different end systems inside the organization.
- Participated in the first agile team created to lead the Agile Transformation initiative in the company.

Stack:

Java 11, Spring Boot, Maven, Kubernetes, Jenkins, MongoDB, Apache Kafka, Junit, Kibana, Grafana

Full Stack Engineer (PHP) - Full time

November 2018 - May 2019

Figame LTD

Athens, Greece

- Developed against Expedia and Booking APIs to integrate new services and features into figame.gr and affiliate websites.
- Introduced a parallel search solution for flight tickets that improved overall user experience and reduced total response times by over 80%, using PHP MultiCurl.

Stack:

PHP 7, Bootstrap 4, jQuery, MongoDB, MySQL, SVN, Bash

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Data Science - 8.5/10

2019 - 2021

University of East London

- **Courses:** Data Ecology, Quantitative Data Analysis, Spatial Data Analysis, Advanced Decision Making
- **Thesis:** "Application development for supervised and unsupervised machine learning, utilized on a dataset of building energy features recording."

Stack:

R, Python 3, MongoDB, ML Libraries (pandas, sklearn, matplotlib)

B.Sc. Computer Science - 6.9/10

2011 - 2018

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens - Dpt. of Informatics and Telecommunication

Thesis: Airbnb clone (Java, MySQL)

PERSONAL PROJECTS (available on GitHub)

- **Phonevice:** Personalized smartphone recommendation platform
- **REST API Aggregator:** Spring boot service that aggregates responses from multiple APIs and implements request throttling and batching using BlockingQueues
- **Carly:** 2 spring boot microservices communicating over Apache Kafka, with MongoDB and RBAC
- **Advanced Decision-Making** application, applying ML Algorithms on a given dataset

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Backend:** Java 11+, Spring (Boot, Security, Data), PHP, Python
- **Frontend:** Bootstrap, JQuery, Javascript, Typescript
- **CI/CD/Cloud:** Docker, Kubernetes, Google Cloud, Azure, AWS
- **Persistence:** MongoDB, Redis, CassandraDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL
- **Other:** Spring Reactive, Apache Kafka, Jupyter notebooks, Python ML Libraries, Spring Unit/Integration testing, REST, GraphQL, SOAP