Giona Granchelli

Senior Software Engineer - Distributed System

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Chapter Lead & senior software engineer with 10+ years of experience designing and modernising distributed systems in banking, fintech, and cloud-native environments. Strong background in Kotlin/Java backend engineering, event-driven architectures, data pipelines, and legacy-to-modern transformation. Hands-on technical leader who combines architecture, coding, and engineering enablement to improve reliability, developer productivity, and migration outcomes. Actively exploring AI-assisted and agentic development practices to accelerate delivery while maintaining quality and engineering guardrails.

Core Skills

Finance & Core Modernisation	Legacy modernization, regulated systems, reconciliation, ETL, financial data processing, migration patterns
Backend Engineering	Kotlin, Java, Spring Boot, REST APIs, Microservices, event-driven systems
Data & Integration	Kafka, CQRS, schema evolution, data pipelines, API contracts, asynchronous messaging
Cloud & Platform	Kubernetes, Docker, Azure, AWS, CI/CD, developer platforms, observability, platform engineering
Frontend	React, Vue.js, TypeScript
Architecture & Leadership	Distributed systems, legacy-to-modern transformation, technical mentorship, engineering standards

Selected Leadership Impact

Technical Leadership	Led modernization initiatives in banking environments, combining architecture work with hands-on implementation and developer enablement.
Engineering Enablement	Built reusable tooling, CI/CD patterns, and platform capabilities that improved deployment reliability and accelerated cloud adoption.
Mentorship	Provided technical guidance through code reviews, pairing, architectural discussions, and support for teams adopting modern engineering practices.
Reliability	Improved operational robustness of critical financial data flows through better reconciliation, observability, and batch-processing reliability.
AI Champion in ABN Amro	Actively expanding AI-assisted software development capabilities, agentic workflows, and GenAI-supported engineering practices for coding, testing, documenting and developer productivity.

Professional Experience

Oct 2024 - Now **Chapter Lead Java & VueJS** | **Software Engineer IV**, *ABN AMRO - BCDB*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Leading technical modernization across a banking department responsible for legacy services and critical data flows, with a focus on cloud migration, engineering enablement, and reliability improvement.

- Led modernization initiatives for legacy services, defining migration paths toward cloud-native architectures on Azure AKS.
- Designed Kubernetes-based platform patterns, CI/CD pipelines, and developer tooling to standardize containerization and deployment across teams.
- Built and improved reconciliation jobs validating financial data consistency across multiple banking systems in a regulated environment.
- Designed ETL pipelines and transformation flows for large-scale financial and master data processing used by downstream services and reporting.
- Improved reliability, observability, and operational robustness of batch and integration flows handling critical banking workloads.
- Acted as a technical multiplier for multiple teams by introducing reusable engineering patterns, paved-road style tooling, and migration guidance.
- Combined hands-on coding with technical leadership, supporting teams in modern engineering practices and reducing delivery friction during transformation.

Stack: Kubernetes, Azure, AKS, Azure DevOps, Java, TypeScript, Kafka

Sep 2020 - Sep 2024 **Full-stack** | **Software Engineer IV**, *ABN AMRO - Strategy and Innovation*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Core engineer for PayDay, a fintech platform enabling instant payouts for gig-economy workers and freelancers.

- Designed and implemented Kotlin/Spring Boot backend services for payment and payout workflows in a regulated financial environment.
- Built and maintained frontend and mobile capabilities supporting operational finance flows and end-user interactions.
- Contributed to architecture decisions around transaction handling, system integration, and scalable service boundaries.
- Delivered distributed services supporting financial transactions, workflow reliability, and user-facing product capabilities.
- Worked across backend, frontend, and mobile layers, combining product delivery with technical problem-solving in a high-trust domain.

Stack: Kotlin, Spring Boot, VueJS, Android, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS S3, PostgreSQL, GitLab CI

May 2020 - Jul 2020 **Software Engineer**, *Ximedes*, Haarlem, Netherlands.

Worked on a project for the Dutch public transportation sector (NS), contributing to an end-to-end solution enabling travel with QR codes instead of conventional tickets.

- Built backend and integration components for ticketing workflows.
- Contributed to real-time communication features using WebSockets.

Stack: Kotlin, Ktor, REST, WebSocket, ReactJS, TypeScript, Redis

Oct 2019 - Apr 2020 **Full Stack Developer**, *BLOX - BTC Direct*, Amsterdam / Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Worked on BLOX, a cryptocurrency trading platform serving approximately 500k daily users.

- Maintained and extended microservices supporting trading, account management, and analytics.
- Contributed to distributed event-driven architecture using Axon Framework and CQRS patterns.
- Improved stability and performance across multiple backend services.

Stack: Java 8, Kotlin, Spring Boot, REST, gRPC, Axon Framework, Node.js, ReactJS, Cordova, MariaDB, Docker, Kubernetes, GitLab CI

Jan 2019 - Sep 2019 **Senior Software Developer**, *WoodWing B.V.*, Zaandam, Netherlands.

Worked on Elvis, a scalable distributed Digital Asset Management system for creating, managing, and distributing digital assets.

- Developed and maintained backend and frontend features.
- Participated in code reviews and peer programming.
- Implemented an SSO solution integrating third-party and internal applications, including AWS Cognito and Okta.

Stack: Java 8, Spring Framework, Elasticsearch, AWS, Jenkins, Docker, REST, AngularJS, Node.js, Okta

Jul 2017 - Jan 2019 **Full Stack Developer**, *Trifork B.V.*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Worked on multiple projects in small agile consultancy teams. First project: IBE, a cloud-based teacher-student platform for creating, managing, and taking school exams.

- Developed new features and maintained legacy functionality.
- Built the frontend application from scratch.
- Migrated and rebuilt CI/CD pipelines from Jenkins to GitLab.

Second project: BLOX, a cryptocurrency exchange app.

- Developed an end-to-end service for managing supported coins on the platform.
- Built functionality for trade trend analysis and usage statistics.

Stack: J2EE, Kotlin, Spring Boot, REST, gRPC, Axon Framework, Node.js, ReactJS, Webpack, Babel, Docker, Kubernetes, Jenkins, GitLab CI

Education

Sep 2015 - Mar 2017 **Master Degree in Computer Science**, *University of L'Aquila*, L'Aquila(AQ), *maximun score "cum laude"*.

Software Architecture, Embedded System, Model Driven Engineering, Research Methodologies, Formal Methods and Mobile Applications.

Thesis Architecture Recovery of Microservice-based Systems.

Supervisors dr. Amleto di Salle, dr. Ivano Malavolta and dr. Paolo di Francesco

Dec 2013 - Jun 2014 **First level postgraduate Master degree in Web Technologies**, *University of L'Aquila*, L'Aquila(AQ), .

I completed courses on LAMP, J2EE, UML for the web, ORM, XML, web services, SOA, web mining, SEO.

Sep 2009 - Jul 2013 **Bachelor degree in Computer Science**, *University of L'Aquila*, L'Aquila(AQ), *99/110*.

I completed courses from Software engineering (UML) to Programming (Java, C), Databases (SQL), Web Technologies (HTML, Javascript, PHP), Algorithms, Compilers and Math.

Thesis Automation control and reachable degree of automation through usage of commercial drones.

Supervisors dr. Davide Di Ruscio di Salle, dr. Ivano Malavolta and dr. Patrizio Pellicione

Publications

[1] **MicroART: A Software Architecture Recovery Tool for Maintaining Microservice-based Systems**.
In Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA), page to appear. IEEE, 2017.

[2] **Towards Recovering the Software Architecture of Microservice-based Systems.**
In IEEE International Workshop on Architecting with MicroServices (AMS), April 2017.

...if you aren't,
at any given time,
scandalized by the code you wrote five or even three years ago,
you're not learning anywhere near enough"
Nick Black