

# Michael Westman



Full-Stack Java Developer | Backend-Focused | Java & Spring Boot

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Full-Stack Java Developer with 8+ years of experience building secure, scalable applications in fintech, payments, insurance, and automotive industries. Experienced across Java, Spring Boot, Kafka, PostgreSQL, React, Docker, RESTful API design, microservices, enterprise integrations, and modern backend systems.

Strong contributor to enterprise environments including BMW Group, PPS, Stanchion Payment Solutions, Cash Connect South Africa, and MHA Management Holdings. Passionate about software architecture, clean code, secure API development, operational efficiency, and continuous hands-on engineering growth.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Backend:** Java, Spring Boot, Spring Security, REST APIs, JWT Authentication, Microservices, Apache Kafka, JPA/Hibernate

**Frontend:** React, Angular, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, Ajax, jQuery

**Databases:** PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle

**DevOps & Tools:** Docker, Jenkins, Git, Bitbucket, Jira, Swagger/OpenAPI, Prometheus, Grafana, CI/CD

**Methodologies:** Agile, Scrum, SAFe Agile, SDLC, DevOps

**AI & Automation:** ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, Ollama, OCR Automation, AI Workflow Integration, AI-Assisted Development

## FREELANCE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### Freelance Software Developer / Technical Consultant

September 2025 - Present | Freelance

#### Responsibilities

**Custom Software Development:** Designing and developing custom software solutions for small businesses and independent clients, focused on automation, operational efficiency, and modern backend systems.

**Business Automation & Workflow Solutions:** Building lightweight automation tools, workflow systems, reporting platforms, and document generation solutions to streamline internal business processes.

**AI & Intelligent Automation:** Exploring AI-assisted software engineering and intelligent automation using tools such as ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, and Ollama to improve development workflows and accelerate delivery.

**Full-Stack Development:** Developing modern applications using Java, Spring Boot, PostgreSQL, React, Docker, REST APIs, and frontend technologies where required.

#### Notable Projects

- Developed certificate automation and document generation systems
- Built workflow and reporting solutions for operational processes
- Assisted businesses with structured messaging and lightweight automation systems
- Designed and developed an event-driven e-commerce platform using Java, Spring Boot, Kafka, PostgreSQL, React, and Docker
- Built OCR and AI-assisted tooling for extracting structured data from images and documents

**Greatest Achievement:** Successfully maintained continuous hands-on software development experience while independently building production-style systems, experimenting with AI-driven engineering workflows, and delivering practical business automation solutions across multiple domains.

## Volunteer Technical Contributor - Helping Paws In Need SA

*Volunteer*

- Providing technical and digital support for operational workflows and business processes
- Assisting with lightweight booking, pricing, and staff management systems
- Supporting automation initiatives and digital engagement improvements
- Contributing technology solutions to improve operational efficiency and communication workflows

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Stanchion Payment Solutions - Software Engineer

*March 2025 - August 2025 | Contract | Remote*

Designing and delivering high-quality Spring Boot-based payment systems in the FinTech space, combining architecture with hands-on coding to produce scalable, maintainable solutions.

#### Key Contributions

- Translating business requirements into scalable technical designs and system architecture
- Writing clean, maintainable Java code with a strong focus on code quality and best practices
- Conducting code reviews, troubleshooting defects, and implementing automated testing
- Collaborating in Agile environments to refine development processes and improve team methodologies
- Enhancing microservices architecture for performance, reliability, and scalability
- Producing clear and comprehensive technical documentation

**Greatest Achievement:** Contributed to the design and enhancement of scalable Spring Boot payment systems in a high-performance FinTech environment while improving microservices reliability, maintainability, and development quality standards.

### PPS - Full Stack Java Developer

*March 2022 - December 2024 | Contract*

#### Core Responsibilities

**API Development & Integration:** Collaborated on the development and integration of APIs for complex enterprise solutions and built robust APIs using OpenAPI specifications.

**Java Development:** Developed and maintained robust Java applications with a strong focus on security and performance, leveraging frameworks like Spring Boot.

**Architectural Design:** Contributed to architectural design and implemented patterns for scalable solutions, demonstrating a solid grasp of software architecture principles and best practices.

#### Technical Skills & Expertise

- Extensive experience in Java software development, including Spring Boot
- Strong knowledge of web technologies, internet security practices, and PostgreSQL databases
- In-depth understanding of Agile methodologies including SAFe Agile, Scrum, DevOps, and Extreme Programming
- Familiar with CI/CD environments and tools like Git and the Atlassian suite

#### Key Attributes

Ability to work effectively under tight deadlines with a strong sense of urgency, consistently exceeding expectations.

**Greatest Achievement:** Contributed to enterprise-grade API integrations and secure backend systems within the insurance and financial services industry while helping deliver scalable and secure Java Spring Boot solutions in a SAFe Agile environment.

### BMW Group - Full Stack Java Developer

*June 2021 - February 2022 | Contract | Hybrid*

## Responsibilities

**Front-End Development:** As a member of the FAAS Team, built complex user interfaces for enterprise applications using Angular, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, jQuery, and Ajax. Responsible for simplifying complex concepts and creating a supportable framework.

**Back-End Development:** Developed, debugged, and enhanced applications using Java as the primary language. Work was integrated into a complex BMW system network, including finance, production, and purchasing systems.

**Project Management:** Worked with a sense of urgency to meet deadlines and exceed expectations while navigating enterprise project environments and collaborating across teams.

**Team Collaboration & Support:** Assisted fellow developers, provided 24/7 standby and incident management, and offered go-live support. Conducted daily and weekly checks on jobs and processes to investigate errors.

**Technical Expertise:** Worked extensively with Agile methodologies including Scrum, Less, and DevOps. Utilized Visual Studio Code, IntelliJ, BitBucket, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Git, Jenkins, and CI/CD workflows.

## Notable Projects

- Developed a multi-search functionality for multiple parts of the FAAS system
- Implemented English and German translations for the FAAS 2.1 system
- Performed refactoring and modernization efforts for FAAS 2.0 and FAAS 2.1

**Greatest Achievement:** Successfully contributed to enterprise-scale BMW systems integrated across finance, production, and purchasing environments while helping modernize the FAAS platform through multilingual support, refactoring, and scalable frontend/backend enhancements.

## Cash Connect South Africa - Support Lead & Customer Success Developer

*January 2021 - May 2021 | Contract | Hybrid*

### Responsibilities

**Back-End Development and Project Management:** Owned development responsibilities, managed task flow, and enabled backend development rotation processes.

**Technical Expertise:** Worked with Agile methodologies, Git, HTML, Ajax, SourceTree, Visual Studio, Java, JavaScript, CSS, and MSSQL.

**System Support:** Provided 24/7 standby and incident management support.

### Notable Projects

- Worked on both client-facing and internal desktop/mobile applications
- Performed regular refactoring and code quality improvements

**Greatest Achievement:** Demonstrated strong ownership and technical leadership within support and development operations, leading to being headhunted by BMW Group for the next role.

## MHA Management Holdings - Head of Technical Operations / Software Developer

*December 2016 - December 2020 | Full-Time*

### Key Responsibilities

**Software Development and Maintenance:** Identified, developed, and implemented bug fixes, new features, and enhancements for existing systems using C# and SQL Server. Developed and maintained stored procedures while supporting SSRS and SSIS environments.

**Team Leadership & Collaboration:** Managed and assisted developers in the technical department while collaborating with integration developers, BAs, and project teams.

**Technical Expertise:** Extensive experience with Visual Studio (2013-2019), C#, SQL Server programming, data extraction, WPF, Scrum, and the SDLC.

**System Support:** Provided 24/7 standby, go-live, and integration support while maintaining BitBucket source control workflows.

### Notable Projects

- Developed an import wizard for Excel data mapping

- Built an Executive Dashboard for financial decision-making
- Created a report scheduler for automated reporting
- Developed a string interpreter for extracting structured email data
- Created a commission system and retention process using PayAt
- Assisted mobile developers with integrations and reporting

**Greatest Achievement:** Progressed into a leadership-focused technical role while developing multiple automation and reporting solutions that improved operational efficiency, reporting accuracy, and internal business workflows.

## FEATURED PROJECT

### Event-Driven E-Commerce Platform

*January 2026 - Present*

Designed and developed a production-grade event-driven e-commerce platform using Java, Spring Boot, Apache Kafka, PostgreSQL, React, and Docker.

#### Key Features

- Secure JWT authentication and authorization
- Kafka-based asynchronous event workflows
- Product, inventory, order, and payment management
- React-based admin dashboard
- REST API architecture with Swagger/OpenAPI documentation
- Observability with Prometheus and Grafana
- Dockerized development environment

Technologies: Java, Spring Boot, Kafka, PostgreSQL, React, Docker, JWT, Tailwind CSS, Prometheus, Grafana

## EDUCATION

Java Developer Certification - 85% Average | VZAP | 2016

Matric Certificate - Top Matriculant | Norkem Park High School | 2011