



Rohan Büchner

TEAM LEAD | ENGINEERING MANAGER

Profile

I am a tech enthusiast with a proven track record of leading and managing teams across diverse industries. My roles have ranged from people-focused leadership to hands-on technical work. I consider myself a full-stack developer ranging from coding, architectural, devops and people. The skill I have acquired through the years have enabled me to comfortably speak to each stream in the tech landscape. I have a friendly, outgoing personality and collaborative mindset. I enjoy problem-solving, always aiming to deliver solutions that impact and get the job done successfully.

Employment History

Engineering Manager, Swiss Marketplace Group, Bern

2024 – PRESENT

As an Engineering Manager within the General Marketplaces vertical at SMG, I led various teams, ranging from Android to the Monetisation teams.

My responsibilities include:

- Leading a diverse, international team while addressing the unique challenges associated with cross-cultural collaboration and product delivery.
- Participating in technical planning discussions, guiding architectural decisions, and ensuring alignment with product goals.
- Mentoring and developing junior engineers, fostering their growth through technical guidance and professional support.
- Supporting and resolving team dynamics, promoting a positive and productive working environment.
- Actively participating in hiring processes, including interviewing and evaluating potential team members.
- Engineering road map planning and commitment coordination and then the execution thereof

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

GTM | Notion | JIRA | Github | Jetbrains | Firebase | JavaScript | SCRUM

Team Lead Software Engineering, Swiss Marketplace Group, Bern

JANUARY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023

As a Team Lead at Anibis.ch, I led a multidisciplinary team of approximately 7 engineers, including Front-End, Back-End, and Technical QA specialists. My primary focus was on overseeing engineering efforts, infrastructure management, and team leadership.

Key Responsibilities:

- Led a cross-functional engineering team, fostering collaboration and technical excellence across various disciplines.
- Played a pivotal role in infrastructure development, specifically focusing on supporting our Kafka instance using AWS Cloud Development Kit (CDK).
- Gained substantial experience with Kafka, with an emphasis on managing and optimizing its supporting AWS infrastructure.
- Managed and facilitated team rituals, including sprint planning, retrospectives, and technical discussions, to maintain alignment and efficiency.
- Actively contributed to the hiring process, providing support in candidate assessment and interviews.

Details

Bern

Switzerland

rohan.buechner@gmail.com

NATIONALITY

South African

Links

rohanbuechner.com

StackOverflow

Languages

English

Afrikaans

German

Skills

React

JavaScript

C#

HTML & CSS

dotnetcore

SQL

CI/CD

Bash

AWS

Docker

Hobbies

I play guitar, produce music, and enjoy walking in nature with my wife. I'm feel I am a pretty decent home cook too. If it wasn't for software engineering, I'd probably would have been a musician. More recently, I took on dog training as a hobby with my wife.

- Provided line management for engineers, offering mentorship, performance feedback, and career guidance.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

AWS | Webstorm | Kafka | AWS CDK | Github Actions | Infrastructure as Code | dotnetcore

Principal Software Engineer, Orderin, Cape Town

DECEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2021

As a Principal Engineer at Orderin, my primary responsibility was to enhance collaboration between various engineering streams within the organization, focusing on product technical design and management.

In this role, I served as a technical leader, bridging gaps between teams and fostering a unified engineering approach.

Key Responsibilities:

- Facilitated cross-team collaboration through architectural guidance and technical leadership, ensuring consistency and alignment across product verticals.
- Led technical software design and planning efforts, working closely with team leads and product designers to develop cohesive and scalable solutions.
- For R&D purposes, I developed proof-of-concept (POC) projects to evaluate new technologies and validate technical hypotheses.
- Organized and led architecture design sessions, guiding discussions to identify optimal technical solutions while balancing business needs and engineering best practices.
- Evaluated third-party tooling and software solutions, conducting assessments to determine technical fit, cost-effectiveness, and integration feasibility.
- Provided mentorship and technical direction to senior engineers, promoting best practices and fostering innovation.
- Acted as a liaison between technical teams and product management, ensuring that technical decisions aligned with strategic business objectives.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

AWS | JetBrains Tooling | Micro-Service Design | Infrastructure as Code | Github Actions | dotnetcore

Lead Full Stack Software Engineer, Orderin, Cape Town

APRIL 2019 – DECEMBER 2020

As a Lead Full Stack Software Engineer at Orderin, I was primarily part of the Consumer Platform team. My primary responsibility was to lead the development and maintenance of high-availability applications and services, with a strong focus on both back-end and front-end development.

Key Project: Scoot (McDonald's South Africa Delivery App)

- Led the development of Scoot, a new delivery platform for McDonald's South Africa, accessible at scoot.co.za.
- Implemented using a microservices architecture built with .NET Core, hosted on AWS.
- Front-end built with React and Redux, using a themed Material React-MUI for a modern and consistent user experience.
- Utilized an event-driven design for order processing, leveraging AWS SNS and SQS for reliable message handling.
- Adhered to Domain-Driven Design (DDD) principles to maintain clear application boundaries and domain logic separation.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Back-End Development:**
 - Developed microservices and APIs using C# for .NET Core and .NET Framework applications.
 - Integrated event-driven communication using AWS SNS and SQS.
 - Enhanced system resilience through improved health-checking mechanisms.
 - Upgraded CI/CD server infrastructure to support streamlined deployments.
- **Front-End Development:**
 - Built and maintained user interfaces using React and Redux.
 - Applied Material React-MUI for consistent theming and UX.
 - Implemented SEO optimization strategies to improve visibility and performance.
- **Team and Project Leadership:**
 - Provided technical support for existing systems, ensuring operational stability.
 - Managed a small team of engineers, offering mentorship and technical guidance.
 - Supported recruitment efforts, including conducting interviews and candidate evaluations.
 - Assisted in creating project specifications and documentation using JIRA and Confluence.
- **Additional Contributions:**
 - Developed a custom market research utility to gather and analyze consumer data.
 - Facilitated enhanced health-check mechanisms for proactive system monitoring.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

AWS | JetBrains Tooling | dottecore | React | Jenkins | DDD | JIRA

Senior Software Engineer, RapidDeploy, Cape Town

JANUARY 2019 – MARCH 2019

I joined RapidDeploy as a Senior Software Engineer after being headhunted, driven by the opportunity to work on applications with substantial real-world scale. The initial attraction was the chance to contribute to innovative, impactful technology.

Reason for Leaving:

Although RapidDeploy is building promising technology, I found that the nature of my day-to-day work differed significantly from what I anticipated based on initial discussions. I realised that the role would not align with my long-term career aspirations and personal goals for professional growth.

After thoughtful consideration, I decided to part ways amicably during my probation period. My decision was rooted in ensuring that both parties did not become dependent on a mismatch in expectations.

I hold a great deal of respect for RapidDeploy and appreciate the opportunity to learn more about aligning expectations before committing to a new role. This experience has taught me the importance of clear communication during the hiring process.

Key Contributions:

- Contributed to planning and initiating upgrade paths for parts of the existing legacy .NET Web Forms application, with a focus on modernizing the interface using TypeScript and ReactJS.

- Collaborated with team members to outline a strategic approach for migrating from older technologies to more modern web standards.
- Engaged in technical discussions around codebase improvements and integration of modern front-end practices.

CTO / Lead Software Engineer, One Media Africa, Cape Town

APRIL 2017 – DECEMBER 2018

I initially joined One Africa Media as a Lead JavaScript/PHP Developer, where I worked on the Cheki (Cars) platform alongside the existing development team. Later, through a unique opportunity, I transitioned back into .NET development when a new venture with Ringier was initiated.

Following the merger and formation of ROAM (Ringier One Africa Media), I was promoted to CTO of a newly created Meta Vertical team. While the title of CTO may not entirely reflect the role, it closely aligned with that of a Software Architect or Principal Engineer in larger organizations.

Key Responsibilities (as Lead Developer):

- Led the development of a core aggregator solution integrated with a foundational framework provided by the Ringier Swiss team.
- Built a modular, rebrandable application that was distributed via NPM for JavaScript components, and NuGet for .NET Core components, ensuring a highly decoupled and agile architecture.
- Utilized a tech stack including:
 - .NET Core running on AWS
 - Elasticsearch and MSSQL as data backends
 - AWS Lambda and Serverless architecture
 - React and Redux on the client side with Server-Side Rendering (SSR)
- Developed a flexible and maintainable system that allowed modular integration without tightly coupling technologies to the core application.

Key Responsibilities (as CTO):

- Took on a multi-faceted leadership role, contributing to both technical and managerial tasks.
- Participated in architecture and planning sessions in collaboration with the Ringier team to design scalable and maintainable solutions.
- Conducted sprint planning for the South African development team, ensuring project timelines and deliverables were met.
- Managed a local team of developers (three at the time), providing mentorship and technical guidance.
- Acted as the primary liaison between external stakeholders and the development team.
- Continued to be involved in hands-on development and technical leadership.

Major Achievements:

- Successfully launched the Sokoso application, which went live in four African countries across two vertical markets (Jobs and Cars), with plans to expand into other sectors.
- Oversaw the continuation and maintenance of the scraper engine, initially developed by the Ringier team, ensuring data integrity and scalability.
- Established a highly modular and rebrandable application structure, allowing rapid deployment and adaptation to new markets.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

dotnetcore | JetBrains Tooling | AWS | MSSQL | IaC | SSR | AGILE

Senior Software Developer, Manalto, Cape Town

OCTOBER 2016 – APRIL 2017

During my time at Manalto, I took on a variety of responsibilities, including technical leadership, software design, and team development. As a startup environment, the role required me to wear multiple hats, ranging from hands-on engineering to team management and recruitment.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Team Leadership:**
 - Led the Soshlr application team, guiding technical decisions and overseeing development efforts.
 - Played an active role in candidate recruitment, technical interviews, and team growth.
 - Fostered a collaborative team environment while ensuring alignment with project goals.
- **Technical Contributions (Soshlr Application):**
 - Designed and built a new Analytics section within the Soshlr application using Angular 1.5.x.
 - Implemented a dynamic, user-configurable dashboard that allowed full customisation of data endpoints and widget presentation.
 - Developed interactive features such as drag, drop, and resizing of widgets, enabling users to create personalised views.
 - Integrated multiple APIs to provide real-time data to user-defined dashboards.
- **Software Design (Soshlr 2.0):**
 - Architected the next-generation stack for Soshlr 2.0, focusing on modularity and reusability.
 - Designed a system to support white-label and rebranding capabilities using a centralised modular structure.
 - Created redistributable NPM modules hosted on a private repository to streamline feature integration.
 - Developed custom Yeoman generators to accelerate the setup of new portals, significantly reducing project initialisation time.

Reason for Leaving:

While the technical challenges and the team at Manalto were highly motivating and the work really enjoyable, the company faced financial difficulties that directly impacted my ability to continue. After the company failed to pay salaries on two consecutive months, it became clear that remaining would not be sustainable. Despite the challenges, I value the experience gained and the opportunity to work with talented colleagues. A few months after my departure, the company ceased operations entirely in South Africa.

<https://stockhead.com.au/tech/manalto-accused-not-paying-south-african-salaries/>

Contractor, Motorhome World, Cape Town

DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

I was contracted by Motorhome World to develop a custom home automation application for a luxury camper van which was due to be demo-ed at an expo a few weeks later. The project was executed part-time over weekends and involved integrating with specialised hardware for automated control.

Project Overview:

- Developed a home automation interface for a luxury camper van, leveraging a Web-I logic board (similar to Raspberry Pi).

- Built the user interface using AngularJS, providing a modern and responsive control panel for the vehicle's automation system.
- Established communication with the Web-I board through RPC calls to control the installed relays.
- Deployed the application directly on the Web-I board, utilizing its embedded web server capabilities for hosting the interface.

Lead Software Developer, Business Systems Group (BSG), Cape Town

AUGUST 2013 – OCTOBER 2016

During my time at BSG, I worked on a variety of client-facing projects, contributing to software development, technical consulting, and solution design. BSG is known for its focus on business and technology consulting, and I played a key role in delivering robust solutions to meet client needs.

Key Responsibilities:

- Developed custom software solutions for a range of clients, utilizing modern web technologies and agile methodologies.
- Engaged in end-to-end software development, from requirements gathering and planning to implementation and deployment.
- Worked closely with cross-functional teams to understand client requirements and deliver tailored solutions.
- Participated in technical planning and design sessions to ensure solutions met both business and technical needs.
- Contributed to code reviews, quality assurance, and continuous improvement processes to maintain high code standards.

Notable Projects:

- Delivered a data visualization dashboard for a client using AngularJS, allowing real-time data monitoring and interactive insights.
- Built a custom API integration to enhance data flow between legacy systems and modern applications, improving operational efficiency.
- Assisted in implementing automated testing pipelines to ensure consistent quality and performance across deployments.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

Teamcity CI/CD | .NET | C# | JavaScript | SQL | AngularJS | Scrum | Agile

Lead Technical Consultant, Standard Bank, Johannesburg

JANUARY 2015 – AUGUST 2016

During my time at BSG, I was contracted to Standard Bank to lead the development of data-centric solutions as part of a critical migration to Salesforce for them.

Initially, I handled all technical and development responsibilities independently, and as the project expanded, I transitioned to a tech leadership role in total we where about 4 developers and 3 consultants based at the client.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Team Leadership:**
 - Technically led a cross-functional team of developers and consultants, providing technical direction and fostering collaboration.
 - Facilitated meetings and coordinated between stakeholders and the development team to ensure project alignment.
 - Managed stakeholder expectations while maintaining clear communication of project progress and challenges.

- **Technical Development:**

- Developed ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) processes using SQL and IBM Data Studio, focusing on efficient data migration and transformation.
- Designed and documented approaches for migrating data to a new CRM system, ensuring accuracy and integrity.
- Analyzed large, unstructured customer data sets, consisting of legacy data from various systems, to extract meaningful insights and prepare for integration.
- Created data models and mappings to standardise and organise diverse data formats.

- **Data-Centric Focus:**

- Tackled complex data-related challenges, gaining significant experience in data modeling and working with large, often inconsistent data sets.
- Improved data quality through systematic analysis and validation processes.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

SQL | IBM Data Studio | ETL | Data Modeling & Analysis | Agile

Lead Developer, TFG Infotec, Cape Town

JANUARY 2013 – APRIL 2014

During my time at BSG, I was contracted to TFG (The Foschini Group) to develop a debt collection management system. This was a 14-month project, where I focused on building a modern, user-friendly single-page application (SPA) while also contributing to backend development.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Front-End Development:**

- Led the front-end development efforts, creating a responsive and efficient SPA using modern JavaScript frameworks.
- Implemented a dynamic user experience using Knockout.js, communicating with the backend through REST APIs secured with bearer tokens.
- Enhanced the user interface with Bootstrap for consistent styling and responsive design.
- Focused on performance optimization, implementing techniques such as response caching, code-splitting, lazy loading, and compression to improve speed and efficiency.

- **Back-End Development:**

- Contributed to backend development in C#, including integrating RESTful services and data processing logic.
- Developed a custom roles and permissions framework, designed to provide granular control over feature access (comparable to LaunchDarkly, before its widespread use).
- The custom framework received significant recognition from both client stakeholders and internal engineering teams for its flexibility and innovation.

- **Technical Leadership:**

- Took the initiative to introduce modern front-end practices and performance enhancements.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to ensure alignment between user requirements and technical implementation.
- Provided mentorship to junior developers, sharing best practices in SPA development and performance optimization.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

Knockout | C# | Bootstrap | SQL | SPA | Caching, Code-Splitting, Lazy Loading

Software Developer (Production Systems), Sovereign Foods Ltd, Uitenhage

JULY 2011 – AUGUST 2012

This role was a pivotal point in my early career, where I transitioned from learning basic programming concepts to becoming a proficient software developer.

It challenged me to build a deeper understanding of software development practices, such as Inversion of Control (IoC), writing reusable code, and structuring applications effectively. During this time, I also became active on StackOverflow, gaining valuable insights from the open-source community that significantly shaped my development approach.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Application Development and Maintenance:**
 - Developed and maintained a range of internal applications using MVC architecture for the company's intranet.
 - Implemented governance processes for application development and maintenance, ensuring consistent quality and scalability.
 - Managed the entire lifecycle of custom applications, from development to deployment and ongoing support (following the principle of "eating your own dog food").
- **System Integration and Data Management:**
 - Collaborated with the data warehousing team to integrate biometric time and attendance systems via background services.
 - Designed and deployed data integration and migration solutions using SSIS packages, ensuring smooth data flow between systems.
 - Created custom dashboards using web-based charting components to provide real-time insights and monitoring for production systems.
 - Developed and maintained custom reports using SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) to meet the reporting needs of internal stakeholders.
- **Specialized Solutions:**
 - Developed an internal mobile website (MOBI site) that ran on Windows Mobile devices, allowing for data collection and process tracking on the go.
 - Built smaller internal services to support various operational needs, streamlining workflows and data processing.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

C# | MVC | SSRS | SSIS | Windows Mobile | T4 Templating

Senior Software Developer, Bennetts Technologies, Port Elizabeth

JANUARY 2011 – JUNE 2011

During my time at Bennetts Technologies, I worked primarily as a first-line support engineer while also taking on development responsibilities for various client solutions. The role involved maintaining legacy systems and optimizing existing applications, as well as designing and developing custom software solutions for clients in diverse industries.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Application Support and Maintenance:**
 - Provided first-line support for existing applications, resolving issues and implementing optimizations to improve system performance.
 - Identified and corrected major optimization issues in legacy systems, enhancing efficiency and reliability.

- **Web and Application Development:**

- Took over development responsibilities for a prototype web email client designed to integrate seamlessly with Microsoft Exchange Server.
- Enhanced and maintained the prototype, focusing on improving integration and usability.

- **Database and Infrastructure Design:**

- Designed and implemented database solutions for clients in various industries, including Automotive, Packaging, and Food Production.
- Created infrastructure plans for integrating legacy data sources into newly developed warehouse systems, ensuring data consistency and accessibility.

- **Industry-Specific Solutions:**

- Developed tailored solutions to address client needs in the Automotive, Packaging, and Food Production industries.
- Focused on integrating legacy systems with modern data processing and storage solutions.

Reason for Leaving:

After joining Bennetts Technologies, I realized that the company's primary focus was on older technologies that were becoming obsolete. As I was keen to advance my skills in modern development practices, such as .NET MVC and Entity Framework, I felt that the role did not align with my professional growth ambitions. I decided to move on to an environment that would better support my career development and technical interests.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

ASP.Net | Webforms | SQL | MS Exchange

Software Developer, CompRSA, Port Elizabeth

OCTOBER 2007 – DECEMBER 2010

CompRSA was my first professional role in software development, where I worked both independently and as part of a team on various projects. I was responsible for managing development requests throughout their entire lifecycle, from initial specification to final approval by QA. This role provided a strong foundation in software development practices, project management, and client communication.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Project Development and Management:**

- Participated in a variety of projects, working independently on smaller tasks and collaborating within teams on larger initiatives.
- Managed development requests end-to-end, from gathering specifications to completing the development cycle and coordinating with QA for approval.
- Delivered software solutions that met client requirements while maintaining quality and performance standards.

- **Client and Team Communication:**

- Attended daily meetings with international clients through video conferencing to discuss project progress, requirements, and deliverables.
- Participated in weekly group Scrum meetings to share knowledge and discuss new technologies, fostering a culture of continuous learning and collaboration.
- Maintained open communication channels with stakeholders to ensure clarity and alignment throughout the project lifecycle.

- **Major Projects:**

- Developed web-based applications for payroll companies, creating client portals that facilitated HR activities and data management.
- Built service-level applications to handle and process large data volumes from over 300 biometric devices, ensuring data accuracy and system reliability.
- Delivered projects for both local and international clients, adapting solutions to diverse business requirements.

Notable Methodologies and Tools:

ASP.Net | Webforms | SQL | VB6 | C# | JavaScript | SQL

Education

International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS), NCC Education, Port Elizabeth

2006 – 2008

Achieved a final score of 94%+ for:

- C#.Net Final Practical
- VB.Net Final Practical

Also had strong results on my final project, which was based on an online banking application with all security concerns & infrastructure taken into account.

Nico Malan, Humansdorp

2003 – 2005

Maths, Science, Afrikaans (1st Language), English (1st Language), Computer Science, Accounting (Distinction)

Kempton Park High, Kempton Park

2000 – 2003

Maths, Science, Afrikaans, Economics, Computer Science, Accounting, English

Impala Primary, Kempton Park

1992 – 1999

Maths, Science, Computer Studies, English, Afrikaans, Business Studies, Economics

Courses

Intro To AWS, A Cloud Guru

MARCH 2022 – MARCH 2022

(SAA-CO1): 2 Storage Design, LinkedIn Learning

SEPTEMBER 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2020

(SAA-CO1): 1 Cloud Services Overview, LinkedIn Learning

SEPTEMBER 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2020

Learn Redux, WesBos Courses

AUGUST 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2017

React For Beginners, WesBos Courses

JULY 2017 – AUGUST 2017

Programming in HTML5 with JavaScript and CSS3, Microsoft

AUGUST 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2014