

DENIS GATHONDU

AI ENGINEER

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SUMMARY

AI Engineer with 9+ years shipping production software, now focused on building agentic and LLM-powered systems end-to-end — from architecture and orchestration through deployment. I've independently scoped and shipped RAG pipelines, multi-agent workflows (LangGraph), and MCP integrations for consulting clients and my own products, in addition to a full-stack engineering and technical-leadership background spanning startups and Fortune-level contract work. I build for real operational constraints, not demos: systems teams can run, explain, and extend after I'm gone.

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

AI & Agentic Systems: LLMs, RAG, LangChain, LangGraph, Model Context Protocol (MCP), Pinecone, agentic pipeline design, prompt/eval design

Backend: Python (Django, FastAPI, Flask), Node.js, Ruby on Rails, GraphQL

Frontend: React, Next.js, TypeScript, Svelte/SvelteKit, Flutter, HTML5/CSS

Data & Infrastructure: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, AWS, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, microservices

Practices: TDD, Agile delivery, system design, technical documentation, code review

AI & INDEPENDENT CONSULTING WORK

Independent Senior Engineer / AI Consultant — Self-employed, Nairobi, Kenya (Remote)

Apr 2026 – Present

- Kaziro — scoped and built a fully agentic job-search platform end-to-end (Next.js, Django, Celery, PostgreSQL); selected LangGraph over alternative agentic frameworks specifically for stateful, checkpointable, human-in-the-loop agent workflows.
- Haven Circle — scoped and delivered a CMS-backed luxury real estate platform (SvelteKit, FastAPI, PostgreSQL) from a blank slate to a live production product for a solo agent client.
- CSAAK — built a full CMS platform (Django, REST API, Next.js) giving a national alumni association its first-ever digital presence for membership, events, and engagement.
- Delivered additional consulting engagements (Estfrank Digitec) covering scoping, architecture recommendation, and full-stack delivery for corporate clients.

Independent Consultant — Rainforest Alliance, Nairobi, Kenya

Jun 2025 – Jan 2026

- Built the FieldEntry app end-to-end, giving certificate holders fast survey aggregates across registered small farms; shipped from inception to release in 3 months.
- Built a greenhouse-gas desktop application (Electron, React, FastAPI), integrating KoBo survey data into the Cool Farm Tool API to power GHG calculations across multiple farms.
- Partnered across teams to keep application design and security aligned with industry standards throughout delivery.

ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP & SOFTWARE ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Engineering Lead / Technical Lead — Jipamba, Nairobi, Kenya

Sept 2024 – Dec 2025

- Led the engineering team (developers, QA, technical staff) end-to-end, moving the org from ad hoc feature work to a structured product delivery process across mobile and business workflows.
- Owned technical design documentation, sprint/task planning, and code review; mentored engineers and onboarded new hires.
- Built the team's Flutter mobile applications and led daily standups and peer review practice.

Engineering Lead — Teknobyte, Nairobi, Kenya

Sep 2022 – Aug 2024

- Incorporated LLMs into a data-capture pipeline to assist with proof-checking and surfacing related terms — one of my earliest production applications of AI to a real workflow.
- Engineered administrative web tools that significantly reduced data corruption and cut digitization time.
- Built a mobile lexicon application for structured dictionary data review.

Senior Software Engineer (Contract) — Andela — Global Client Teams, New York, NY / Remote

Feb 2017 – Nov 2022

- Delivered production software for Andela partner clients across nonprofit tech, social impact, fintech, and e-commerce, including Shelter Animals Count, WeSpire, BombFell, and Asset-Map.
- Restructured a monolithic application into independently managed microservices, improving deployment flexibility and service efficiency.
- Shipped end-to-end features spanning payments (Stripe integration), data visualization (Recharts), 3rd-party API integrations, and customer-facing React interfaces across 5 client engagements.

AI CERTIFICATIONS

- AI Engineer Production Track — Deploy LLMs & Agents at Scale
- AI Engineer Agentic Track — The Complete Agent & MCP Course
- AI Engineer Core Track — LLM Engineering, RAG, QLoRA, Agents
- LangChain, Pinecone & OpenAI — Build Next-Gen LLM Apps
- AI Leader — Generative AI & Agentic AI for Leaders & Founders

EDUCATION

BSc Information Technology — Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Kenya (2013), Second Class Honors, Upper Division