

Denis Gathondu - Tech Lead / Senior Software Engineer / Full-Stack Developer

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Summary

As a conscientious, dynamic, and innovative full-stack software engineer, I create solutions that make a positive impact. I constantly challenge myself to learn and unlearn, uphold industry standards, and explore new concepts. I'm a proven leader who can streamline development processes to achieve organizational goals. I am ambitious, curious, and strive for greatness. I am driven to grow myself and those around me through collaboration.

Technical Proficiencies

Python (Django/Flask/FastAPI), cloud services (AWS, GCP), Git/version control, databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB), caching, REST and RESTful API architecture, test-driven development (TDD), JavaScript (ReactJS, NodeJS, NextJS), Ruby (Rails), GraphQL, HTML5, CSS, Flutter (Mobile), Docker, Kubernetes, and continuous integration/continuous deployment, Electron.

Professional Experience

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Andela, New York, NY (February 2017 - Present)

- Spearheaded design and development of customized applications and tools using Agile methodology, delivering successful projects from concept through implementation.
- Restructured monolithic applications into independently managed microservices to improve on the efficiency and flexibility of internal services.
- Collaborated with Andela partners to deliver customized technology solutions aligned with their business objectives and strategic vision.

- Designed and implemented an efficient algorithm using Django and Python scripting to streamline the Secret Santa matching process for employees, fostering a culture of teamwork.

Independent Consultant

RainForest Alliance, Nairobi, Kenya (November 2025 – January 2025)

- Built out the greenhouse gases desktop application using Electron, React, and Fast API
- Integrate data from KoBo surveys into the cool farm project API for the greenhouse gas calculations of multiple farms.

Independent Consultant

RainForest Alliance, Nairobi, Kenya (June 2025 – August 2025)

- Built out the FieldEntry app end-to-end that would allow certificate holders to quickly get aggregates for surveys done on their registered small farms.
- Advised on the tooling to get the best user experience and developer experience, and managed to have the app released within 3 months from inception to delivery.
- Worked alongside different teams to ensure that RA's application design and security needs are met and up to industry standards.

Engineering Manager

Jipamba, Nairobi, Kenya (December 2024 - December 2025)

- Lead the engineering team directly, including developers, QA, and other technical roles.
- Oversee the implementation of tasks, sprints, and technical features to ensure progress aligns with goals.
- Provide hands-on technical expertise by reviewing code and debugging complex issues.
- Ensure the team meets deadlines and maintains high standards of code quality.
- Mentor team members, fostering technical growth and onboarding new hires effectively.
- Build the mobile apps using Flutter.

Technical Lead / Senior Full Stack Engineer

Jipamba, Nairobi, Kenya (March 2024 - December 2024)

- Lead daily standup meetings and conduct Peer Reviews.
- Create technical documents and design documents for features.
- Design and implement critical features end-to-end.

- Task creation and estimations to ensure the team is on track with their deliverables.

Engineering Lead

Teknobyte, Nairobi, Kenya (September 2022 – November 2024)

- Engineered administrative web tools to allow for easier data capture that reduced data corruption significantly. The time to digitize data greatly improved.
- Built a mobile application to allow users to interact with precompiled data as a lexicon (dictionary).
- Incorporated LLMs in the data capture to assist with proof-checking data and getting related words.

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Shelter Animals Count, Atlanta, GA (May 2022 – October 2022)

- Implemented impactful data visualizations using Recharts to identify patterns and trends in large datasets. This supported strategic decision-making and effective resource allocation across animal shelters.
- Implemented user-friendly React forms that streamlined animal intake, outcome, and service tracking. This made the data capture process easier, leading to less corrupt data.

Software Engineer (Contract)

WeSpire, Boston, MA (July 2020 – March 2022)

- Implemented a new recurring donation feature, end-to-end using React.js and RoR, on the giving platform by integrating with Stripe's API. This saw an increase in the adoption of the giving feature en masse.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams and incorporated user feedback to improve UI, increase engagement, and enhance platform functionality.
- Triaged and resolved bugs, prioritizing them based on impact on customer experience.

Software Engineer (Contract)

BombFell, New York, NY (February 2019 - April 2020)

- Using React.js, I implemented an intuitive and user-friendly preview that refined the Order Preview process. This allowed users to review and confirm their orders before shipping, greatly reducing returned orders.
- Implemented a robust Shop feature that allowed subscribed users to purchase individual items separately from their stylist-curated orders.

- Collaborated with the stylist team to design and implement features for the Stylist Portal, which streamlined the workflow, improved inventory management, and enhanced the overall client experience.
- Rapidly prototyped and tested new features to ensure they met user needs, resulting in significant improvements to the efficiency of the stylist team.

Associate Software Engineer (Contract)

Asset-Map, Philadelphia, PA (March 2018 – January 2019)

- Implemented 3rd-party API integration using Django. This led to reduced manual data entry from different data providers and valuable insights to clients in a single interactive page.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Kenya (2013)

Graduated with Second Class Honors, Upper Division

Certificates

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

References

- Dr. Mucemi Gakuru, Teknobyte Publishers: Email: mucemi@teknobyte.ltd
- Thomas Falken: Process Engineer, Products, Rainforest Alliance: Email: tfalken@ra.org