

Marius-Dorinel Pașcalău

Senior Backend Engineer

marius.pascalau@fitthebit.ro • +40 757 405 523 • Cluj-Napoca
linkedin.com/in/marius-dorinel-paşcalău-253281150 • paşcalău.com • FIT THE BIT
S.R.L.



SUMMARY

Senior backend software engineer with 8+ years of experience designing, building, and operating scalable APIs and distributed systems in Java. Specialized in event-driven architectures, microservices, and Apache Kafka, with deep hands-on expertise in Spring Boot and the broader JVM ecosystem.

Currently leading backend development on a regulated, high-availability KYC onboarding platform for ING Bank, processing thousands of customer journeys per day across an active-active multi-datacenter deployment. Comfortable owning systems end-to-end — from architecture and implementation through deployment, observability, and incident response.

Active mentor and code reviewer, with a track record of guiding junior engineers, leading technical decisions, and driving cross-team migrations. Embraces AI as a core part of the modern development workflow, using Claude and Claude Code daily to accelerate delivery while maintaining strong engineering judgment.

Founder and owner of FIT THE BIT S.R.L., operating as an independent contractor on complex software projects.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Backend Engineer — HCL Technologies (for ING Bank), Cluj-Napoca Oct 2021 – present

Senior engineer on the microservices platform orchestrating ING Bank's end-to-end KYC onboarding flow — roughly 2,500 customer onboarding attempts per day on an active-active deployment (4 instances across 2 datacenters).

- Designed and implemented the Kafka-based event pipeline that orchestrates all downstream calls after customer consent — Avro serialization with a Schema Registry for contract management.
- Led a full system migration to a new infrastructure stack — application cluster, Oracle database, Kafka topics, firewall rules, and codebase — coordinating the end-to-end cutover (~2 hours of planned downtime).
- Owned the technical decision for the consent approval callback design during a migration between two consent management systems.
- Resolved a critical production incident caused by a null-vs-empty list mismatch between two service versions running concurrently during rolling deployments.
- Cut SELECT latency on high-volume tables by introducing targeted database indexes.
- Mentored 3–4 junior engineers through pairing, design discussions, and structured code reviews; consistently active in code review across the team.

Java • Spring Boot • Apache Kafka • Avro + Schema Registry • Oracle • REST / OpenAPI • JUnit • Mockito
• Maven • Docker • OpenShift • Azure Pipelines • Prometheus • Grafana (Tempo, Mimir, Loki)

Java Developer — TSS-Yonder, Cluj-Napoca Apr 2021 – Nov 2021

Backend developer in a 5-person team building a fleet-management platform for refrigerated trucks — planning and executing journeys, controlling cooling systems, locking and unlocking doors at predefined points, and generating trip reports.

- Built a new REST API from scratch with Java and Spring Boot, applying best practices for security, performance, and scalability.
- Designed and implemented a translation module converting high-level journey commands into low-level instructions executed by onboard truck controllers.
- Integrated the platform with the external system relaying commands to in-vehicle controllers.

- Implemented authentication and authorization with Keycloak.
- Wrote unit and integration tests with JUnit and Mockito.

Java · Spring Boot · PostgreSQL · REST APIs · Keycloak · Maven · JUnit · Mockito

Teaching Assistant — Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca

Jan 2020 – Jun 2021

Teaching assistant for two undergraduate courses — Object-Oriented Programming (year 2) and Distributed Control Systems (year 4) — supporting 45–60 students per semester across 3–4 lab groups.

- Ran weekly lab sessions, prepared materials, and mentored students through hands-on assignments in Java, Spring Boot, Angular, and Android.
- Guided final-year students through a distributed system project: Spring Boot backend, Angular web client, and Android app with role-based access and real-time location tracking.
- Evaluated lab assignments, exams, and final projects with structured feedback.
- Redesigned the lab grading workflow with per-lab detailed marking, then prototyped its automation using a TDD approach — pre-configured Git repositories with predefined tests.
- Designed and implemented a Jenkins-based plagiarism-detection pipeline — the foundation of my Master's dissertation.

Java · Spring Boot · Angular · Android · Jenkins · Git · JUnit

PEGA Developer — Corandus GmbH, Cluj-Napoca

Apr 2020 – Mar 2021

Trained and certified on the PEGA low-code platform (Java-based BPM), with parallel ownership of the team's PEGA environment.

- Earned two PEGA certifications: Certified System Architect (CSA) and Certified Senior System Architect (CSSA).
- Built a custom UI layer on top of PEGA using JavaScript, HTML, and CSS.
- Owned the end-to-end setup of the test/dev environment: Docker installation and networking, HTTPS configuration, SSH key-based access, and UFW firewall rules.

PEGA · Java · JavaScript · HTML · CSS · Docker · Linux · NGINX · UFW

Full Stack Developer — Codemart SRL, Cluj-Napoca

Jun 2019 – Mar 2020

Full-stack developer across three concurrent client projects, with additional ownership of the shared DevOps infrastructure supporting all of them.

- Transportation-contracts platform: investigated and fixed multiple production bugs in a Java / Spring / Wicket application managing contracts between a large company and its subcontractors.
- Check-out engine: adapted the engine to support a new product type for a Goethe-Institut e-commerce platform — still running in production.
- Medical platform: took over an externally developed Spring Boot + Thymeleaf application managing patients, doctors, and insurers; stabilized and extended it to the client's quality bar before handover.
- Set up and maintained Test and Demo environments for all three projects with Docker and Jenkins, including build pipelines and deployment automation.

Java · Spring · Spring Boot · Wicket · Thymeleaf · JavaScript · HTML · CSS · Docker · Jenkins

Android Developer (internship) — NTT Data Romania, Cluj-Napoca

Jun 2018 – Aug 2018

Internship focused on native Android development with Java — built a sample sports-betting application as a training project, covering the Android SDK, mobile UI design, and core development practices.

Java · Android SDK

PROJECTS

Pensiunea Steaua Apusenilor — property management platform · In production

2018 – present

Full-stack booking and property-management platform built and operated for a family-run guesthouse in the Apuseni mountains. Started as my Bachelor's thesis, then redesigned into a production-grade system with major upgrades to architecture, stack, and feature set.

Java · Spring Boot · Angular · PostgreSQL · Keycloak · NGINX · Docker · Linux (VPS) · REST APIs

Automated code evaluation & plagiarism detection · Master's dissertation

2020 – 2021

Jenkins-based evaluation platform orchestrating automated testing of student submissions across multiple Git repositories — aggregated statistics, scoring metrics, and plagiarism reports. Built so teaching staff can grade laboratory and exam work objectively, repeatably, and at scale.

Java · Spring Boot · Angular · Jenkins · Git

SKILLS

Languages	Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL
Backend	Spring Boot, Spring (MVC, Data, Security, AOP), REST APIs, Microservices, Event-driven architecture, OpenAPI / Swagger
Messaging	Apache Kafka, Apache Avro, Schema Registry
Databases	Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL
DevOps & cLOUD	Docker, OpenShift, Azure Pipelines, Jenkins, NGINX, Linux, AWS
Observability	Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Tempo, Mimir
Testing	JUnit, Mockito, TDD, Integration testing, Regression testing
Frontend	Angular, TypeScript, HTML, CSS
Auth	Keycloak (IDM), OAuth / OIDC
AI workflow	Claude, Claude Code, AI-assisted development, LLM API integration
Tools & practices	Maven, Git, IntelliJ IDEA, Agile / Scrum, Code review, Mentoring

EDUCATION

Master's degree — Applied Informatics in Engineering of Complex Systems	Oct 2019 – Jul 2021
Technical University of Cluj-Napoca	
Bachelor's degree (Engineer) — Automation and Applied Informatics	Oct 2015 – Jun 2019
Technical University of Cluj-Napoca	

CERTIFICATIONS

PEGA — Certified Senior System Architect (CSSA)
PEGA — Certified System Architect (CSA)
ANC (Romania) — Authorized Trainer (Formator)

LANGUAGES

Romanian — Native · English — C1