

# Nikitas Kotsolakos | Senior Full-Stack Engineer

+33 624865396 • kotsolakos.nikitas@gmail.com • Greek based in France - Open to relocation  
nikitas.dev • linkedin.com/in/nikitas-kotsolakos • github.com/NikitasKotsolakos



## PROFILE

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Senior Full-Stack Software Engineer with a decade at CERN. Equally at home starting something new and inheriting something ancient. Collaboration isn't just a personality trait; it's the method for keeping complex, long-lived systems healthy, till the moment you can finally retire them. Open to relocation.

## EXPERIENCE

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**Planned career break** — Military obligations, travel & personal projects Oct 2025 – present

**CERN** — Senior Full-Stack Software Engineer (Staff) — Networking Group Oct 2020 – Oct 2025

**Stack:** *Java, Spring/Spring Boot, AngularJS, Oracle DB + PL/SQL, GitLab CI/CD, Kubernetes, Elasticsearch*

### New projects development and management

- Led the rewrite of the Self Registration Portal, the entry point every CERN user goes through to add a device on the network. Within a year of launch, failed registrations dropped by 80%.
- Spearheaded the first release of the LanDB REST API, successor to a legacy Perl SOAP API at millions of calls/day. Designed the auth model and the first write endpoints, which became the template for the rest.
- Designed, built, and deployed a microservice bridging LanDB with CERN's new Kea DHCP server as sole engineer. Load-tested to validate production readiness, uncovering issues requiring architectural changes on the DHCP server, re-tested after the fix to validate.

### Legacy codebases evolution and migrations

- Maintained and evolved CERNphone, CERN's internal telephony management portal. Liaison to the team owning the underlying SIP service, designed new features, and eventually handed ownership to a more junior developer, providing guidance when needed.
- Owned the legacy network portal's OAuth2 migration end-to-end in 6 months, despite it being in maintenance-only mode for 12 years. Analytics, user outreach, dev work, collaboration with other teams to update their scripts, and rollout tracking. Zero problems reported.
- Drove the migration from Spring Boot 1.4 to 2.7 through our whole codebase, coordinating developers.

### Initiatives for team and process improvements

- Unified observability across 4 web apps and 20+ microservices. Added Matomo analytics, refactored logging through a shared Java layer and into Elastic/OpenSearch (Filebeat → Logstash), and created dashboards for operations and error tracking.
- Helped recruit 5+ team members end-to-end (test design, interviews, hiring decisions). Supervised a junior developer for 3.5 years.
- Initiated multiple team process improvements, ranging from more clear sprint focus for increased collaboration, knowledge sharing ("documentation as presentation"), PR tracking with Gitlab labels, improved backlog tracking and stories quality (focus on "why" with prebuilt templates) etc

**CERN** — Software Engineer — Accelerator Coordination & Engineering Group Mar 2016 – Oct 2020  
**Stack:** *Java (Spring, GWT, GXT), JavaScript (React), Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, GitLab, OpenShift, C#*

### Maintenance and evolution of large system

- **Led the development of several major features** and smaller supporting applications (Spring Boot + React) based on client requirements.
- Backend, DB, frontend, and web service (REST + SOAP) development for CERN's Engineering Documentation Platform, 1200+ daily visitors. Requirements analysis, design, implementation, testing.
- Participated in cross-section efforts to improve engineering data quality, data and systems integration.
- Led the discussions with stakeholders and development of a solution for the problem of parallel tracking of Accelerators documentation across different years / runs, co-author of paper published in IPAC'18.

### Integrations with other platforms

- **Designed and set up Business Intelligence solution integration (Pentaho)** — gave the team and users advanced reporting capabilities.
- Led the development of the first integration with a new PLM System (Aras Innovator) by showing our data in the new platform — first pilot that helped shape future integration.

### Operations and Team processes

- **Scrum master of a 7–8 person team for several sprints**, improving internal processes.
- Performed multiple successful new version releases; quick incident response. Taught others how to.
- Assisted newcomer onboarding and shared both business and systems operations knowledge.  
**Participated in hundreds of code reviews.**
- Provided user support (2nd and 3rd line) — **300+ ServiceNow tickets resolved with consistently excellent feedback.**

**OTE / Cosmote** — ADSL & Telephony Technical Support Sep 2010 – Feb 2012

- Guide non technical people through technical issues and solutions (ADSL & telephony remote support)

## PERSONAL PROJECTS

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[Stream.estate MCP Server](#) (Java, Spring) | [Sleep-and-Health Web App](#) (Python, Flask + TypeScript, React)  
[Smarter Groups Web App](#) (PHP, Laravel) | [Cadence for IntelliJ Plugin](#) (Java)

## SKILLS

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**Languages & Frameworks:** Java, Spring, Spring Boot, RabbitMQ, JavaScript, React, AngularJS, PL/SQL, Python

**Infrastructure & DevOps:** Kubernetes, Docker, GitLab CI/CD, Openstack, OpenShift

**Databases & Data:** Oracle DB, MySQL, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch, Kibana, Logstash, Filebeat

**Practices:** REST & SOAP APIs, Load Testing, Monitoring, Observability, Code Review, Agile / Scrum

## EDUCATION

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**School of Electrical and Computer Engineering** — National Technical University of Athens  
Diploma (5-year Engineering Diploma, equivalent to Master) — Grade: 7.82 / 10

## LANGUAGES

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**English** C2 (proficient, 10 years working language) • **Greek** Native • **German** B1 • **French** A2

## COURSES & TRAININGS

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Core Spring, Spring MVC & Spring Security — *Udemy*

Kubernetes Administration — *Udemy (CKA prep)*

Developing Secure Software — *CERN*

Engineering Software as a Service - *Berkeley through EDX*