BAKARE PRAISE STEPHEN

BACKEND ENGINEER

+44 7344 400328 | bakarepraise3@gmail.com | LinkedIn | Portfolio | GitHub

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Engineer with 3+ years designing and operating distributed, event-driven systems across fintech, medtech, logistics, ecommerce and ed-tech. Builds production Java services on Spring Boot and streams data through Apache Kafka, with hands-on ownership of schema design, API contracts, asynchronous messaging, observability and CI/CD. Comfortable working in high throughput environments where correctness, idempotency and uptime matter, and used to collaborating closely with SRE and senior engineers to diagnose and remediate live production issues.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, SQL, TypeScript, JavaScript, Go

Java Ecosystem: Spring Boot, Spring MVC, Spring Data JPA, Spring Security, Hibernate/JPA, JUnit 5, Mockito, Testcontainers, Maven, Gradle

Event Streaming & Messaging: Apache Kafka (producers, consumers, consumer groups, partitioning strategies, offset management, retries and dead-letter topics), Kafka Streams, Schema Registry / Avro, Spring Kafka, RabbitMQ, Redis Pub/Sub

Databases & Caching: PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (EC2, S3), Docker, GitHub Actions, Nginx, ELK Stack

Architecture & Practice: Microservices, event-driven architecture, REST API design, CQRS, transactional outbox and saga patterns, idempotent consumers, TDD, Agile/Scrum, code review and pair programming

Other Backend: Node.js, NestJS, Express.js

EXPERIENCE

Backend Engineering Intern — Moniepoint Inc. **Jul 2026 – Aug 2026**

Fintech payments infrastructure operating at national scale.

- Joined through DreamDevs (Cohort 2, Apr – Jun 2026), Moniepoint's selective engineering programme, progressing from HackerRank screening and live coding rounds into the cohort and on to an internship.
- Engineered and maintained Java backend services in a high-scale production payments environment, working within an established Spring Boot codebase alongside senior engineers.
- Diagnosed and resolved recurring runtime failures in production request paths, removing a source of service crashes and improving overall stability.
- Investigated latency and error-rate regressions on production endpoints, tracing them through logs and metrics to root cause and restoring healthy Apdex scores.
- Worked with Kafka-backed event flows used for asynchronous transaction and notification processing, tracing message paths across producers and consumers to debug downstream inconsistencies.
- Wrote and extended JUnit and Mockito test coverage around the services touched, ensuring fixes were regression-protected before release.
- Collaborated daily with the engineering manager and paired with senior backend engineers, accelerating ramp-up on the codebase and on the team's review and deployment standards.

Backend Engineer — Cognetik Technologies (Remote) **Sept 2024 – Jul 2026**

Ed-tech and logistics platform work.

- Architected a learning management platform with an automated grading engine and role-based access control, sustaining 20,000+ concurrent users with zero downtime through optimised data flows and query tuning.
- Designed the grading pipeline as an asynchronous, event-driven workflow so submission scoring ran off the request path, keeping API latency stable during peak assessment windows.
- Published and consumed Kafka events for submissions, grading results and notifications, using partitioning by learner ID to preserve per-user ordering and idempotent consumers to make retries safe.
- Built REST APIs for logistics and global billing using test-driven development, streamlining cross-border payment flows and access-control logic.
- Modelled relational schemas in PostgreSQL and introduced indexing and caching strategies that kept reporting endpoints responsive as data volume grew.

- Reviewed teammates' pull requests and contributed to service design discussions, API versioning conventions and deployment practice.

Backend Engineer — MAP Systems Inc. (Remote, Canada) **Dec 2024 – Aug 2025**

Medtech platform with real-time collaboration features.

- Built event-driven microservices and real-time WebRTC/Socket.io services, improving platform scalability by 35% and user engagement by 40%.
- Implemented asynchronous service-to-service communication over Kafka and RabbitMQ, decoupling long-running workloads from synchronous APIs and allowing services to fail and recover independently.
- Defined event schemas and topic conventions across services so producers and consumers could evolve without breaking downstream contracts.
- Orchestrated AWS infrastructure with Redis caching and message-driven workers, sustaining 99.9% uptime.
- Hardened authentication by introducing multi-factor authentication, materially reducing account-takeover risk across the platform.

Backend Engineer — Uhunger (Remote, Nigeria) **Jan 2024 – Sep 2024**

Food delivery and order management platform.

- Designed high-volume REST APIs and reduced query latency by 45% through advanced indexing and query profiling in PostgreSQL.
- Modelled order state transitions as an event stream so order, payment and delivery-tracking services could react independently to status changes.
- Accelerated release cycles by 70% by building CI/CD pipelines in GitHub Actions covering build, automated tests and deployment.
- Improved observability with the ELK Stack, adding structured logging and dashboards that shifted incident handling from reactive to proactive.

Backend Engineer — ProcureRex (Remote, Nigeria) **Jul 2023 – Jun 2024**

Fintech procurement and payments product.

- Developed a secure wallet architecture with Paystack integration, improving transaction reliability by 30% through rigorous state management and error-handling pipelines.
- Implemented idempotency keys and reconciliation logic so retried or duplicated payment callbacks could never double-credit a wallet.
- Emitted domain events for wallet credits, debits and settlement so ledger, audit and notification concerns stayed decoupled from the payment path.
- Built an auditable transaction log giving finance a complete, immutable trail for every balance change.

Backend Engineer Intern — Intelligra Solutions Limited **Mar 2023 – Aug 2023**

- Designed and tested REST API endpoints and optimised SQL queries under senior mentorship within an Agile delivery team.
- Contributed to code reviews and manual and automated testing, learning production standards for error handling and API design.

PROJECTS

Gotunnel — Go-based TCP tunnelling system with a custom binary protocol, TLS encryption and stream multiplexing over a single connection.

Kleari — Native Rust + Tauri macOS app that finds reclaimable disk space, explains the risk of each cleanup and quarantines approved files with full undo. Fully local, no telemetry, open source.

Uhunger — Food delivery backend covering payments, order lifecycle management and real-time delivery tracking.

EDUCATION

MSc Cyber Security — University of Sunderland **2026 – Present**

B.Sc. Computer Science — Landmark University, Kwara, Nigeria **2020 – 2024**

Second Class Upper (2:1)