

ISMAIL NYZAR

Senior Backend Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Backend Engineer with 5+ years of experience designing, shipping, and operating distributed backend systems in Go and Java. Proven across REST APIs, event-driven microservices, multi-tenant platforms, SQL performance tuning, Kafka pipelines, and cloud-native deployments on AWS and Kubernetes. Known for end-to-end ownership, strong production instincts, and a track record of raising engineering quality — from observability and TDD to system design and mentorship.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	Go, Java, SQL, Python, JavaScript, TypeScript
Backend	Spring Boot, REST APIs, gRPC, GraphQL, Node.js, JWT, Swagger/OpenAPI
Cloud	AWS (EKS, EC2, S3), Kubernetes, Docker, CI/CD, Linux
Data	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, Apache Kafka, Avro, query optimization
Systems	Microservices, event-driven architecture, multi-tenant design, etcd, Eureka, idempotency
Observability	OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, distributed tracing
Quality	TDD, integration testing, code review, technical documentation
Additional	React, AI-assisted development, local LLM experimentation, developer tooling, mentoring

WORK EXPERIENCE

Backend Engineer | [Velosync](#) | Colombo, Sri Lanka Jan 2026 – Present

- Build and maintain Java and Spring Boot services supporting crypto-related workflows, peer-to-peer chat, and core product APIs serving real-time transactional use cases.
- Design and optimise REST endpoints across high-throughput, SQL-heavy paths — improving latency and reliability for financial and messaging flows.
- Containerise services with Docker; manage AWS EC2 deployments, runtime debugging, and production incident response.
- Integrated Tencent Chat and other third-party services to deliver real-time messaging and platform capabilities with minimal coupling.

Software Engineer | [PickMe](#) | Colombo, Sri Lanka Dec 2024 – Jan 2026

- Designed, built, and operated high-availability Go microservices on Kubernetes for production-critical, cloud-native workloads at scale.
- Led end-to-end migration from a legacy single-tenant system to a scalable multi-tenant architecture, introducing tenant-aware middleware and timezone-safe business logic.
- Architected Kafka-based event-driven workflows with Avro schema management, enabling robust real-time data processing and downstream consumer contracts.
- Owned features from system design and API specification through deployment and on-call production support.
- Grew legacy service test coverage from 0% to 50%+ by championing TDD practices and introducing automated integration tests across the team.
- Improved platform observability with OpenTelemetry and Prometheus; built etcd-based dynamic configuration enabling zero-downtime configuration updates.

Software Engineer (Contract) | The Polar Lights | Remote Jan 2023 – Jun 2024

- Architected and delivered secure, high-throughput Go microservices for a food delivery platform supporting 5,000+ daily active users.
- Designed RESTful APIs for core domains — orders, authentication, and restaurant management — with full OpenAPI documentation and versioning strategy.
- Built Kafka-based real-time data pipelines enabling dynamic pricing, inventory optimisation, and operational analytics.
- Delivered features end-to-end: system design, API implementation, CI/CD setup, and post-launch production support.

Software Engineer | 99X | Colombo, Sri Lanka Aug 2020 – Oct 2024

- Developed scalable RESTful APIs using Java, Spring Boot, and PostgreSQL serving 10,000+ users, achieving a 15% improvement in average response time through targeted query and cache optimisation.
- Designed Kafka-based ETL pipelines reducing reporting latency by 10%, enabling near-real-time business intelligence dashboards.
- Deployed and managed microservices on Kubernetes; standardised API documentation with Swagger/OpenAPI across all service boundaries.
- Built and maintained high-traffic applications with React, Node.js, and GraphQL — achieving 99.9% uptime across 50,000+ monthly users.
- Led frontend modernisation initiative that improved page load speed by 20% and contributed to measurable conversion rate increases.
- Mentored 5 junior engineers and established engineering best practices across delivery workflows, PR reviews, and production monitoring.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Event-Driven Payment Orchestrator *Go · Kafka · PostgreSQL · Redis*

- Saga-style order and payment coordination system with idempotency guarantees, automatic retries, dead-letter queue handling, and full audit-friendly workflow visibility.
- Designed for horizontal scalability and resilience against partial failures across distributed service boundaries.

Multi-Tenant SaaS Backend Platform *Java · Spring Boot · PostgreSQL · React · AWS*

- B2B SaaS backend with tenant isolation, role-based access control (RBAC), admin workflows, usage tracking, and deployment-ready platform foundations.
- Includes observability stack, API-first design, and a React admin dashboard.

Distributed Job Scheduler / Workflow Engine *TypeScript · Fastify · PostgreSQL · Redis · Docker*

- Durable scheduling platform with worker leasing, retry policies, full execution history, real-time job-state tracking, and automated failure recovery flows.
- Designed to replace cron-based workloads with a reliable, observable, horizontally scalable alternative.

EDUCATION

MSc Advanced Software Engineering (Honours) *In Progress*

University of Westminster, United Kingdom · 2025 – Present

BSc Computer Science (Honours) — Upper Second Class *2019 – 2024*

University of Westminster, United Kingdom

LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

Visiting Lecturer — Informatics Institute of Technology, Sri Lanka *(Sep 2023 – Present)*

Teaching modern backend development, cloud-native patterns, and distributed systems principles to undergraduate students.

- Champions — Haxmas 2021 Hackathon
- Runner-Up — Haxmax Hackathon
- IIT Sri Lanka Scholarship for High Competency in ICT