

BORUT BALAZEK

Founding Engineer / Senior Software Engineer

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SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer with 14+ years of experience taking products from nothing to production. Founding Engineer / CTO on a real-time market intelligence platform, first developer alongside the CTO on an EdTech platform that grew from tens of thousands to millions of users, and founder of an independent consultancy delivering end-to-end for startups and enterprises. Comfortable owning architecture, backend, data pipelines and infrastructure while writing the code.

CORE TECHNOLOGIES

Languages	TypeScript, JavaScript, PHP, Python, Rust
Frontend	React, Next.js, React Native, Astro, Tailwind
Backend	Node.js, Bun, NestJS, Fastify, FastAPI, Symfony, tRPC, GraphQL, REST APIs
Architecture	Microservices, Event-driven architecture, Domain-driven design
Data	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, ClickHouse, Cassandra, Elasticsearch, Kafka, Airflow
Infrastructure	Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, AWS, GCP, Azure, GitHub Actions, CI/CD
AI & LLM	OpenAI, Anthropic, Ollama, LLM classification pipelines
Testing & Observability	Jest, Vitest, Cypress, Playwright, Grafana

EXPERIENCE

Founding Engineer / CTO - Hands-on Engineering

MarketAlerts.com | May 2024 - Mar 2026

AI investment-intelligence startup - real-time signals across 20+ global markets. Invoiced through Corco Labs d.o.o. Wound down in 2026.

- Founding engineer on an AI investment-intelligence platform covering 20+ global markets in real time - owned the backend architecture and the AWS to GCP migration.
- Built the data platform: containerised Python ETL tasks run per source as Airflow pods on Kubernetes, feeding 100+ API endpoints across TypeScript and FastAPI.
- Built the LLM layer: hierarchical GPT classification of financial signals, and an OpenAI summariser turning earnings-call transcripts into structured highlights.

Founder & Senior Software Engineer - Independent Consultancy

Corco Labs d.o.o. (previously Corcosoft, Borut Balazek s.p.) | Aug 2012 - Present

Independent software consultancy, 70+ projects across six countries. The long-term engagements below are invoiced through it.

- Delivered 70+ client projects across FinTech, IoT, Energy, EdTech and consumer brands - full-stack products, internal tools, configurators, booking systems and campaign platforms.
- Around 50 ran through partner agencies: 33 for German clients via Cuibono Media Network, including Philips, RWE, Innogy, Stadtwerke Krefeld and Ruhrbahn; and 19 for Slovenian clients via Organizem, including Radenska, Perutnina Ptuj, Medex, Danone, Red Bull, Les Mills, Sportina, Thermana Lasko and Ljubljana Airport.
- Built 18 Facebook campaign and prize-game applications, three of which returned every December as advent-calendar campaigns for six to seven consecutive seasons - each with a fixed launch date and no room to slip.
- Owned engagements end to end, working directly with clients in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the UK, the US and Slovenia.

Tech Lead / Backend Architect

Martian & Machine | Aug 2024 - Feb 2025

Government smart-city programme in the Middle East, delivered across five city domains and several vendor teams.

- Backend architecture for a government smart-city programme: 20+ microservices on Kubernetes across five city domains, with APISIX at the edge and Keycloak for identity.
- Event-driven layer connecting IoT gateways to application services, with Kafka streaming and Cassandra time-series storage.
- Domain-driven design with clean API contracts, so several vendor teams could build in parallel.

Senior Software Engineer

Edukey Education Ltd | Nov 2015 - Dec 2023

UK EdTech behind ClassCharts and Provision Map, acquired by TES Global. Eight-year engagement, invoiced through Corco Labs d.o.o.

- First developer alongside the CTO; helped grow the platform from a few dozen schools and tens of thousands of users to thousands of schools and millions of users.
- Owned the mobile product end to end - the React web application and all three native apps, teacher, student and parent, across iOS and Android - and rebuilt the legacy web application from jQuery to React in place.
- Took the infrastructure through three generations - Rackspace to GCP to AWS, three servers to roughly 100 instances - introducing Docker and later Kubernetes, and led a 40+ TB asset migration between clouds with no downtime.

SELECTED PROJECTS & OPEN SOURCE

Metis	News aggregation and AI classification processing ~100K articles daily across ClickHouse, Meilisearch, Redis and BullMQ.
Guestavo	Guest-engagement platform for hospitality venues - reservations, menus, events, campaigns and loyalty behind one guest portal. Live in beta, built solo.
AfterGather	Branded media hub for photographers - private client galleries plus QR-based guest photo collection at live events. Live in early access, built solo.
MoaiTime	Open-source, self-hosted productivity platform - calendar, tasks, habits, notes, focus and mood tracking in one product.

EDUCATION

Software Developer

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Ptuj | 2007 - 2011

LANGUAGES

English - Fluent | German - Fluent | Slovenian - Native