Mislav Stipetic

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Introduction

I'm a software engineer who's spent the last decade building complex full-stack systems and leading engineering teams. After running a VC-backed startup for a few years, I've returned to hands-on engineering, currently working with AI and real-time applications.

These days I'm particularly interested in practical applications of Large Language Models. I enjoy figuring out how to make AI actually useful in production systems, beyond the hype. You can see some of my experiments with this in my side projects planwell.co and reynote.com.

I like solving technical problems, but I've learned that the most interesting challenges usually lie in understanding what needs to be built in the first place. Having been both a founder and an engineer helps me bridge that gap.

Experience

Symbolic.ai, Staff Engineer (Elixir)   Remote
                                                            Oct 2023 – present

- **Technologies:** Elixir/Phoenix, JavaScript, PostgreSQL, Generative AI, RAG
- **Domain:** Generative AI, Journalism, Content Management
- Built and rebuilt several major components of an AI-powered application supporting journalists and their working process
- Developed real-time multiplayer experiences integrating with the Elixir stack
- Created complex JavaScript applications working seamlessly with backend services
- Implemented AI-powered features using OpenAI and other LLM technologies (including Structured Outputs, Tool Use, and Agentic workflows)
- Led technical architecture decisions for new features and system improvements

Terminal49, Product and Tech Lead   Remote
                                                            Oct 2022 – Oct 2023

- **Technologies:** Ruby on Rails, Ember.js, PostgreSQL
- **Domain:** Logistics, Supply Chain, Container Shipping
- Refactored app backend to enable end-to-end configuration driven development
- Hired and managed engineering team while developing quarterly and long-term roadmaps
- Ran customer interviews and designed new highly interactive web interface based on customer feedback
- Proposed and launched a new product based on customer feedback
- Led technical architecture decisions and implementation of major platform features

Freelance, Full Stack Engineer   Remote
                                                            Dec 2021 – Oct 2023

- **Technologies:** Elixir, Python, Kubernetes, AWS, Python, go, VueJS, JS
- **Domains:** FinTech, Audio Processing, Infrastructure, E-commerce, B2C applications
- Built real-time platform for sharing and annotating conversational audio files using Elixir
- Designed and implemented scalable Kubernetes infrastructure on AWS including CI/CD and ML pipelines using Argo Workflows

- Developed features for Python application using FastAPI and Celery
- Built MVP of real-time bond issuing platform with multi-agent ordering system
- Served as interim Software Architect for mobile app with millions of active users

Magic Sandbox, Founder and CTO

Berlin
Jan 2018 – Dec 2021

- **Technologies:** Kubernetes, Docker, Python, JavaScript, AWS
- **Domain:** EdTech, Developer Tools, Cloud Infrastructure
- Successfully raised EUR 1M+ in funding and built team of 8 engineers
- Built immersive hands-on learning platform for Kubernetes including development environment and cluster provisioning
- Developed custom live dashboard representing cluster state and content editing tools
- Created and delivered 6-day Kubernetes bootcamp, personally training hundreds of engineers
- Led sales efforts resulting in EUR 300k+ revenue
- Managed complete technical strategy and implementation from inception to production

Flixbus, Senior Engineer

Berlin
Apr 2016 – Jan 2018

- **Technologies:** Python, JavaScript, VueJS
- **Domain:** Transportation, Data Science, Pricing Optimization
- Core member of Data Science team building Python backend tools for pricing management platform
- Developed frontend tools for visualizing and utilizing model-generated data and suggestions
- Led adoption of data science tools throughout the company
- Member of central technical decision-making group for technology stack evolution

Delivery Hero, Senior Backend Engineer

Berlin
Jan 2014 – Jan 2016

- **Technologies:** Python, Microservices, Docker
- **Domain:** Food Delivery, Payments, E-commerce
- Core member of infrastructure team designing and building framework for new Python microservice platform
- Developed multiple services on the new platform architecture
- Led payments team integrating and managing multiple payment providers
- Served as Product Owner for new backoffice platform supporting customer service operations

Nanobit, Backend Developer

Zagreb
Jan 2013 – Jan 2014

- **Technologies:** Python, Docker, PostgreSQL
- **Domain:** Gaming, Mobile Apps, Infrastructure
- Designed and implemented scalable microservice architecture to support growing mobile gaming company
- Pioneered early Docker adoption for service deployment and discovery
- Presented architectural solutions at EuroPython conference in Berlin

Education

MSc   **Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing**, Software Engineering and Information Systems

<div align="right">Zagreb, Croatia
Sept 2007 – June 2012</div>

- Masters curriculum concentrated on software development processes and web technologies
- Teaching Assistant for Intro to Computation Theory and Programming Language Compilation courses
- Reached semifinals in SCORE international programming competition

Skills and Languages

Frontend Development: JavaScript, Vue.js, Ember.js, Phoenix LiveView, Tailwind CSS

Backend Development: Elixir/Phoenix, Python, Ruby, Go, PostgreSQL, Redis

Infrastructure & DevOps: Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, CI/CD, GitOps, Argo Workflows

AI & Data: Generative AI, LLM Integration, RAG, Agentic workflows, Data Pipeline Design, ETL

Leadership: Team Management, Product Strategy, Technical Architecture, Customer Development

Languages: English (Fluent), German (Intermediate), Croatian (Native)

Personal

I'm married with three children. I enjoy music production as a hobby. Privately, I'm working on two projects where I experiment with latest AI technologies:

planwell.co ↗ is an AI-powered copilot for Project Managers, where I'm exploring agentic workflows and LLM orchestration.

reynote.com ↗ is an AI-powered relationship journal and coach, focusing on emotional intelligence in LLMs.