

Ilgar M.

Engineering Lead / Solution Architect

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Professional summary

Engineering leader with 15+ years of experience in IT across banking, payments and telecommunications, combining a software engineering background with enterprise architecture and leadership across large engineering organisations. Currently oversees 34 teams and approximately 350 engineers in the payments domain. Previously led a corporate banking engineering team of 10 squads and approximately 100 people.

His architecture experience includes defining target-state architecture and technical roadmaps, establishing architecture governance across approximately 70 systems, and launching infrastructure and data architecture practices. He has contributed to payment gateway integrations, Open API platforms and mobile banking backends, addressing reliability, scalability and security requirements.

His expertise covers engineering standards, developer productivity, platform engineering and mentoring technical leaders. His technical background includes Java, Go, AWS, Kubernetes and CI/CD.

Education	Azerbaijan State University of Oil and Industry Bachelor's degree in Power Engineering, 2007 - 2011
Skills	Engineering leadership, developer productivity, platform engineering, enterprise architecture, IT governance, technical roadmaps, mentoring, API-first design SLO/SLA Java, Kotlin, Go, Python, PHP, JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, React, jQuery, HTML, CSS AWS (Lambda, EKS), DigitalOcean Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform CircleCI, Jenkins, CI/CD, Git, Linux SQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Apache Kafka, Apache Camel, Spring Boot

Company	**Kapital Bank**
Project	Payment Business
Domain	Banking and payments
Period	Jan 2026 - Present
Role	Director of Engineering

Responsibilities

- Oversee engineering execution across 34 teams and approximately 350 engineers, spanning IT business analysis, QA and software development;
- Set engineering standards and quality expectations, and improve delivery predictability across the organization;
- Drive platform reuse, API-first patterns and reliability initiatives based on SLOs and SLAs;
- Partner with Product and Business teams on roadmap sequencing and technical trade-off decisions;
- Mentor engineering managers and technical leads, establishing regular coaching and development practices.

Company	**Kapital Bank**
Domain	Corporate banking
Period	Jan 2025 - Mar 2026
Role	Technical Tribe Lead

Responsibilities

- Led technical execution for a Corporate Banking tribe of 10 squads and approximately 100 people, aligning delivery and quality across squads;
- Defined engineering standards for code reviews, CI/CD, documentation and learning from incidents;
- Partnered with Product and Business teams during discovery to clarify technical trade-offs and delivery sequencing;
- Led the technical roadmap, managed dependencies and contributed to staffing strategy;
- Improved reliability and performance of critical services and defined the SLO/SLA approach;
- Promoted platform reuse and API-first patterns, and mentored technical leads and engineering managers.

Company	**PASHA Bank, Baku**
Project	Enterprise architecture and IT governance
Domain	Corporate banking
Period	Feb 2024 - Feb 2025
Role	Head of Enterprise Architecture and IT Governance
Technologies and frameworks	COBIT 2019, Architecture Review Board, ADRs, C4-style architecture views, API and interface contracts

Responsibilities

- Led IT strategy for 2026 operations, translating business goals into target-state architecture and a prioritised execution roadmap;
- Built the Enterprise Architecture and IT Governance function from scratch, extending governance coverage to approximately 70 systems;
- Established and chaired an Architecture Review Board, including decision rights, review workflows, architecture decision records and an exception process;
- Conducted a COBIT 2019 capability assessment and re-evaluated 35 IT processes as part of a governance improvement programme;
- Improved Change Management, Incident Management and Access Management processes through clearer ownership, controls and operational discipline;
- Established infrastructure and data architecture directions, including standards, reference architectures, guardrails, ownership and data-flow principles;
- Contributed to Payment Gateway architecture, defining integration patterns and reliability, scalability and security requirements;
- Standardised architecture documentation using C4-style views, interface contracts and documented rationale.

Company	**PASHA Bank, Baku**
Project	Backend engineering across product squads
Domain	Corporate banking
Period	Jan 2021 - Feb 2024
Role	Backend Engineering Chapter Lead
Technologies	Java (Spring Boot), Go, AWS (Lambda, EKS), Elasticsearch, Docker, Terraform, CircleCI, Jenkins

Responsibilities

- Led backend engineering practices across squads, including hiring standards, onboarding, coaching and technical standards;
- Worked with Product teams during discovery to shape feasible solution options and clarify trade-offs;
- Improved engineering culture through code review standards, internal meetups and knowledge sharing;
- Drove testing, CI discipline and design review initiatives to reduce defects and rework;
- Mentored technical leads and senior engineers, supporting growth plans and performance calibration;
- Provided technical support and helped align engineering capacity with delivery needs.

Company	**PASHA Bank, Baku**
Project	Open API platform and mobile banking backend
Domain	Corporate banking
Period	Sep 2020 - Jan 2021
Role	Tech Lead
Technologies	Java (Spring Boot), Go, AWS (Lambda, EKS), Elasticsearch, Docker, Terraform, CircleCI, Jenkins

Responsibilities

- Led solution design, technical planning, delivery sequencing and cross-team dependency management for a product squad;
- Built key components of the bank's Open API stack, enabling external integrations and standardising API patterns;
- Contributed to mobile banking backend architecture through design and prototyping, addressing performance, security and maintainability;
- Drove reliability improvements that increased service availability from approximately 83-85% to 98-99%;
- Defined code review standards, CI/CD quality gates and documentation expectations;
- Partnered with Product and Business teams during discovery, mentored engineers and supported interviews and onboarding.

Company	**PASHA Bank, Baku**
Project	Digital and internet banking
Domain	Corporate banking
Period	Jan 2019 - Sep 2020
Role	Senior Software Engineer
Technologies	Java (Spring Boot), Go, AWS (Lambda, EKS), Elasticsearch, Docker, Terraform, CircleCI, Jenkins

Responsibilities

- Delivered customer-facing features using Agile practices, with a focus on quality and predictable delivery;
- Owned technical design for squad epics, including requirements analysis, design proposals and implementation approaches;
- Improved development practices through CI/CD pipelines, code reviews and design walkthroughs;
- Worked with architecture and platform teams on scalable integrations and clear interfaces;
- Contributed to the migration of the Internet Bank between cloud provider regions, supporting stability and continuity;
- Shared knowledge through mentoring, internal technical talks and documentation.

Company	**Azercell Telecom, Baku**
Project	B2B applications and service integrations
Domain	Telecommunications
Period	Nov 2010 - Dec 2018
Role	Senior Software Developer / Engineer at Service Platforms Team
Technologies	Java (Spring Boot), Apache Kafka, Scala, SVN, Bitbucket

Responsibilities

- Developed and maintained internal applications for the B2B segment;
- Worked on ASAN Imza, mobile number portability, customer campaign engines, prepaid tariff changes, mobile ringback tones, e-government customer verification and postpaid invoice notifications;
- Organised and participated in the migration from SVN to Bitbucket;
- Promoted unit and contract testing through internal meetups;
- Prototyped Kafka integration within the internal API gateway;
- Developed and maintained internal applications for the B2B segment;
- Worked on ASAN Imza and mobile number portability services;
- Contributed to customer campaign engines, including SMS-based campaigns;
- Maintained continuous operation of value-added service platforms.
- Investigated failures and provided operational support and troubleshooting.
- Performed platform upgrades and patch installations.
- Coordinated with vendors on platform support and maintenance.