

Derrick Orare

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Professional Summary

Senior Software Engineer with 10+ years of experience across fintech, energy, and enterprise SaaS. Architect and founding engineer who has built platforms from zero to production, handled \$10M+ in annual transactions, and supported 100,000 users. Deeply pragmatic about system reliability, cloud infrastructure (AWS, Kubernetes), and backend design (Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL, event-driven architectures). I lead by mentoring engineers, setting engineering standards, and shipping outcomes that move business metrics.

Core Skills

Languages: Ruby, Python, Java, JavaScript
Frameworks: Ruby on Rails, Node.js, Express, React, Next.js
DBs & Infra: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, CI/CD, Juju, MAAS
Architectures: RESTful APIs, microservices, distributed systems, event-driven design
Methodologies: Agile/Scrum, TDD, BDD, system design, code reviews, on-call

Work Experience

Senior Software Engineer (Founding Developer)

Ndovucloud Technologies

Aug 2018 – Present

Nairobi, Kenya

- Built a multi-tenant SaaS platform from concept to production using Ruby on Rails and MongoDB—established the technical foundation that enabled company scaling from 0 to paying customers.
- Unified M-Pesa, Visa, and Stripe into a single payment processing layer handling \$10M+ in annual transaction volume.
- Owned core services: user management, tenant isolation, billing, and reporting—all meeting enterprise security and compliance requirements.
- Defined engineering standards (code reviews, Git workflows, deployment pipelines) that allowed the team to grow from one to six engineers without losing velocity.
- Translated business requirements directly into technical roadmaps and delivery milestones with stakeholders.

Senior Software Engineer

Engie Energy Access

Nov 2022 – Jul 2023

Kampala, Uganda

- Owned backend payment reconciliation and asset tracking systems supporting energy distribution to ~50,000 customers.
- Built internal tools and customer-facing APIs for meter management and billing—reduced payment processing errors and improved system throughput.
- Defined service contracts and data models with product and data teams for real-time reporting on energy sales and customer repayments.
- Mentored three junior engineers through code reviews and architecture sessions, directly improving code quality and reducing post-release defects.

Backend Engineer

Kwara

Oct 2021 – Aug 2022

Nairobi, Kenya

- Built and maintained backend services for a digital banking platform (Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL) supporting ~100,000 users with high reliability requirements.
- Implemented CI/CD pipelines using Docker and GitLab CI—cut average deployment time from two hours to ~30 minutes.
- Strengthened application security by refactoring authentication flows and adding audit logging for critical financial data.
- Designed RESTful APIs while supporting a gradual migration to microservices.
- Provided technical guidance to two engineers on backend design and deployment practices.

Full-Stack Developer

LipaLateral Limited

Nov 2019 – Oct 2021

Nairobi, Kenya

- Developed and maintained fintech systems for payments, authentication, and credit underwriting—processing ~500,000 transactions monthly.
- Led decomposition of a monolithic Rails application into four domain-focused services, cutting cross-team depen-

dencies and accelerating feature delivery.

- Expanded test coverage from ~65% to over 90% by driving TDD practices and extending the RSpec suite—directly reduced production incidents.
- Participated in on-call rotation for critical payment and loan systems, maintaining service availability during peak usage.
- Implemented performance improvements that reduced transaction latency.

Software Development Engineer

Duara Systems (Africa’s Talking Lab)

Mar 2018 – Jul 2018

Nairobi, Kenya

- Containerized Rails-based SMS microservices using Docker and Kubernetes, achieving consistent deployment behavior across environments.
- Optimized PostgreSQL databases for SMS delivery logging with indexing strategies that materially improved query performance.
- Automated private cloud infrastructure using Juju and MAAS, reducing service provisioning time.

Consultant – Test Automation

Central Logic

Jun 2016 – Jun 2017

Remote

- Built an automated test framework with Selenium and Java that cut manual regression effort for a healthcare SaaS platform.
- Created reusable test scripts and page object models ensuring consistent execution across UI and API workflows.
- Integrated automated tests into CI pipelines, enabling regular regression suites without manual intervention.

Software Quality Engineer (Associate)

EMC Corporation (now Dell EMC)

Jun 2014 – May 2016

Pleasant Grove, UT, USA

- Designed and executed test strategies for enterprise storage software—functional validation, system integration, and performance testing.
- Partnered with development teams to identify and track defects throughout the release lifecycle.
- Conducted performance and stress testing that directly contributed to system performance improvements across two major releases.

Education

Brandeis University

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science & African & Afro-American Studies