

Louis Kotze

Senior Full-Stack Engineer · Linux Kernel Contributor

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SUMMARY

Senior engineer with 10+ years across full-stack product delivery, platform architecture, and systems-level open-source. Ships production code for enterprise clients in pharmaceuticals, automotive, and FinTech, and contributes upstream to the Linux kernel and wireless-regdb. Leads small distributed teams across time zones.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Developer — iOCO Digital (contract to Takeda) · May 2025 – Present

Lead a team of 3 engineers delivering a data-visualization platform used across Takeda's internal analytics teams. Coordinate across 14 dev teams, chapter leads in India, business stakeholders in Switzerland, and a product owner in the US.

- Shipped 5 new chart types on the platform — geographic, work-management, and process-insight views — widening its coverage across supply-chain, site operations, and work-management data for Takeda's internal users
- Designing a multi-view layer that lets analysts pivot between renderings of the same dataset without leaving the page
- Leading team adoption of AI-assisted development: KT sessions, restructuring the codebase for agent-friendly context (Copilot / Claude Code / Codex), and automated Copilot-driven PR reviews
- Stack: Angular 21, Highcharts, GraphQL, Storybook, GitHub Actions

Senior Software Developer — BMW IT Hub South Africa · Aug 2021 – May 2025

Led engineering on the Group Document Management System and Technical Action Database for BMW, working across teams in Germany, South Africa, and Portugal (team size 3–7).

- Led Kafka rollout linking BMW's warranty-case management systems into a unified real-time event pipeline, replacing siloed stage-by-stage processing across the warranty admin lifecycle
- Technical Maintenance Manager for the resulting high-volume transactional system — production support, deployments, CI/CD, and database administration
- Mentored 3 Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator graduates through their 6-month rotation on the team

Software Developer — Discovery Limited · Jun 2019 – Jul 2021

- Designed reusable CRM components adopted across Discovery's product lines, reducing duplication for downstream teams
- Prototyped candidate architectures and presented in the Software Architect forum to shape company-wide technical standards

Software Developer — Hello Group · Jan 2016 – May 2019

- Championed Kubernetes and WSO2 adoption, establishing the standard microservices infrastructure across the company
- Delivered FinTech compliance systems audited by SARB and Deloitte UK

- Built remittance interfaces expanding the business into Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Bangladesh
- System lead for a critical project during a month-long deployment in India

OPEN-SOURCE & UPSTREAM CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Linux kernel (linux-wireless)** — Authored RTL8922AU USB RF-calibration timeout fix, merging into `wireless-next` (v3 Acked-by Realtek's kernel maintainer; 5 independent Tested-by tags). lore.kernel.org/linux-wireless/20260416045536.817930-1-loukot@gmail.com/
- **wireless-regdb** — Authored 5 country regulatory-database patches (ZA/HK/KR/RU/UA) audited against primary regulatory sources (SCRF, MSIT, OFCA, ETSI)
- **morrownr/rtw89** — PR #76, out-of-tree driver backport
- Filed Fedora bug 2458629 with reproducer and root-cause analysis for a `wpa_supplicant` MLO reassociation race

SKILLS

Primary stack: Angular, TypeScript, JavaScript, GraphQL, Highcharts, Storybook

Backend & platform: Java, Kafka, Kubernetes, Docker, microservices, REST/GraphQL API design

Cloud & infra: Azure, AWS, GCP, GitHub Actions CI/CD, Prometheus, Grafana

Systems / low-level: Linux kernel modules, wireless stack, C (kernel-adjacent), bash

Practice: Distributed team leadership, mentoring, Agile/Scrum, code review, technical writing (kernel-grade commit messages)

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- **Diploma in IT: Software Development** — Varsity College, 2013–2015 (Top Student, all 3 years)
- Professional Scrum Master (PSM 1), Professional Scrum Developer (PSD 1)
- ICF Coaching Skills for Managers (30 hours)