CHAITANYA WAIKAR

Senior Software Engineer | Berlin, Germany | chaitanyawaikar.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Infrastructure engineer with 10+ years building large-scale distributed systems. Operating Nakadi at Zalando, serving 2M+ requests/second with 2TB+ daily event publishing. Expert in Kafka, event-driven architecture, infrastructure management, and operational excellence.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, Scala, Python

Frameworks: Spring Boot, Akka, Play Framework

Streaming: Kafka, Zookeeper, AWS MSK

Databases: PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, Cassandra, Elasticsearch

Cloud: AWS, Kubernetes, Docker

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer, Zalando, Berlin | Oct 2023 – Present

- Operate Nakadi event-streaming platform serving 2M+ requests/sec with 2TB daily publishing and 4TB daily consumption
- Manage 100+ node Kafka cluster: capacity planning, rebalancing, deployments, scaling operations during peak seasons
- Led strategic migration analysis from Bubuku to AWS MSK and Strimzi; guided platform modernization decisions
- Design load testing for Zookeeper simulating Black Friday scenarios to validate cluster resilience

Software Engineer, Zalando, Berlin | Feb 2021 – Oct 2023

- Led team of 6 for Hyped Article Checkout initiative: 10% customer engagement increase, high-traffic launch management
- Migrated Elasticsearch to DynamoDB datastore: 20% latency reduction, 100k euros annual savings
- EU Omnibus Price Initiative: led team of 4, ensured regulatory compliance, protected 4% annual revenue
- Designed Kubernetes node pool strategies reducing node wastage by 30%

Backend Developer, Perseus, Berlin | Aug 2019 – Jan 2021

- Architected end-to-end user journeys: secure signup, Stripe payment processing, Freshworks integrations
- Led migration from Monolithic to Microservices architecture improving scalability and maintainability

Consultant, Thoughtworks | Sep 2018 – Jul 2019

- Built business-critical low-latency BFF applications using Scala, Akka, Apache Gemfire for international bank
- Conducted POCs on in-memory data grids (Gemfire, Hazelcast, Redis) architecting optimal solutions
- Applied Extreme Programming (XP) practices, specifically Test Driven Development (TDD) and Pair Programming, to maintain high code quality and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Specialist Programmer, Infosys | May 2015 – Aug 2018

- Architected high-performance IDAM solution for major German retail client handling high-concurrency traffic
- Selected as Power Programmer (elite <15 developers company-wide); led transition to functional and reactive programming
- Built Data Rapid: high-performance data generation engine creating 100GB+ production-like datasets (open-source)
- Served in the Big Data Center of Excellence, building multiple POCs for client use cases, including an Insta Award-winning KPI metrics tool for Reckitt Benckiser.

CERTIFICATIONS & OPEN SOURCE

[Certified Kubernetes Application Developer](#) (CNCF, Nov 2022)
[AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate](#) (Aug 2022-2025)
[Nakadi](#) (Zalando event-streaming platform, 2M+ req/sec)
[Data Rapid](#) (open-source data generation engine)