

BULELA TSHULISI

Backend Software Engineer | Java · Spring Boot · Distributed Systems

Cape Town, South Africa • 068 479 3600 • bulelatshulisi@gmail.com • [LinkedIn](#) • [GitHub](#)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Backend Software Engineer specialising in Java/Spring Boot and distributed systems, with sole day-to-day ownership of a business-critical document-processing integration spanning two backend services and an external intelligent document platform. Trusted with the full delivery cycle: defect resolution, enhancements, coordinated database changes, deployments, and operational reliability across Dev, QA, and Production. Also designs, ships, and operates two live products end to end, from REST APIs and PostgreSQL through CI/CD to production infrastructure.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend	Java, Spring Boot, REST APIs, Microservices, Apache Camel, JavaMail/MIME, Streaming I/O
Integration & Messaging	ActiveMQ, JMS, Asynchronous Workflows, External APIs, Service-to-Service Integration
Data & Cloud	PostgreSQL, Sybase, SQL, Relational Data Modelling, Flyway, AWS S3
Platform & Delivery	OpenShift, Kubernetes, Docker, Jenkins, GitHub Actions, Maven, Git, Linux, Nginx, CI/CD, Monitoring

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer - Backend & Platform

May 2025 – Present

Momentum (via Techzarlogy) · Cape Town, South Africa

- **System ownership:** own the day-to-day engineering and support of an integrated document-processing system (two Spring Boot services plus an external intelligent document platform), covering incidents, defects, enhancements, data fixes, deployments, and operational follow-through.
- **API & integration development:** build and maintain Java/Spring Boot REST APIs and Apache Camel integrations powering document processing, workflow operations, and service-to-service communication.
- **End-to-end diagnosis:** trace failures across REST APIs, asynchronous messaging, external payloads, cache behaviour, application logs, and relational data to isolate true root causes rather than symptoms.
- **Performance & resilience:** improved large-email and document handling with streaming, attachment-aware compression, and AWS S3-backed storage, reducing memory pressure and operational risk.
- **Safe change delivery:** implement code enhancements and coordinated data changes spanning multiple related tables while preserving mapping integrity and downstream behaviour.
- **Release & platform support:** ship releases through Jenkins CI/CD and troubleshoot OpenShift/Kubernetes deployments, resource usage, runtime failures, and environment-specific defects across Dev, QA, and Production.

Selected impact

- **Restored correct document processing** by uncovering missing cross-table mappings and a cache-key defect, then shipping guarded data fixes and a cache correction that eliminated stale and incorrect results.
- Fixed a streaming API defect that returned **HTTP 200 before validating document availability**, so missing documents now fail fast and correctly while valid files continue to stream reliably.
- **Designed an OpenShift monitoring solution** comparing pod CPU and memory usage against configured limits, improving observability and capacity planning across environments.

Software Engineering Intern

Feb 2025 – May 2025

Techzarlogy · Cape Town, South Africa

- Supported Java/Spring Boot backend development, debugging, testing, maintenance, deployments, and CI/CD workflows in enterprise microservices environments.

Technical Mentor

Sep 2024 – Dec 2024

WeThinkCode_ · Cape Town, South Africa

- Mentored first-year students in programming fundamentals, problem solving, agile collaboration, and core software engineering practices.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Guesser - Social Photo Location-Guessing Game

Creator & sole developer · guesser.com (live)

- Built and deployed a full-stack geolocation game where users create photo challenges and share links for friends to guess locations, built on Spring Boot REST APIs, PostgreSQL, Flyway, and a Next.js frontend.
- Designed backend lifecycle and integrity features: anonymous ownership, 24-hour expiry, rename/delete operations, precise distance-based leaderboards, session/CSRF security, and optional Google authentication.
- Operate the production stack end to end: Linux VPS with Nginx, Vercel frontend, Cloudflare DNS, GitHub Actions CI, and production smoke checks.

Axioms - Mathematics Learning Platform

Founder & sole developer · axioms.co.za (live)

- Built and deployed a live learning platform with Spring Boot REST APIs, PostgreSQL-backed problem templates, AI-assisted problem generation, and a Next.js frontend.
- Own the product end to end: backend design, database modelling, Docker/Nginx deployment, VPS operations, and ongoing production improvements.

EDUCATION

Software Engineering Programme - WeThinkCode_

Sep 2023 – Dec 2024

Cape Town, South Africa

- Intensive, project-based programme focused on software engineering, problem solving, collaboration, and practical delivery.