

Vladimir Penkin

Staff Software Engineer · Platform & Backend

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PROFILE

Staff Software Engineer with 19 years building web products, including 11 at Rev through its ~10x revenue growth.

Most recently tech lead for SmartDepo, an acquired legal-AI product: led its integration into Rev's platform in 4 months, moved it onto Kubernetes and Terraform, and owned its LLM summarization pipelines. Backend in C#/.NET and Python; hands-on with Kubernetes, Terraform, CI/CD, AWS and Linux. Deep expertise in complex browser editors (React, ProseMirror).

Looking for Staff Backend or Platform engineering roles. Open to full-stack engineering for the right opportunity.

CORE SKILLS

AI/LLM	LiteLLM, summarization pipelines, scikit-learn, spaCy
Platform Engineering	Kubernetes, Docker, Helm, Terraform, Infrastructure as Code, CI/CD
Cloud & Infrastructure	AWS, Azure, Linux
Databases	PostgreSQL, MSSQL, MongoDB, Supabase, Snowflake, Looker
Observability	Prometheus, Grafana
CI/CD & Tooling	Jenkins, GitHub Actions, Ansible
Programming	C#, Python, Ruby, Node.js, TypeScript/JavaScript
Frontend	React, Next.js, ProseMirror
Communication	Cross-team communication, Remote work

EXPERIENCE

Rev.com 2015 – 2026

Staff SWE, Technical Lead (SmartDepo) 2025 – 2026

SmartDepo: legal deposition-summary product acquired by Rev in 2025. Inherited with no CI, tests, staging or secrets management, and only one engineer able to work on it.

- Delivered Multi-Witness processing, SmartDepo's key product milestone of the year, coordinating changes across the AI backend, web frontend, database schemas and admin tooling; shipped on deadline and expanded the product's addressable market.
- Owned hierarchical LLM summarization pipelines for legal depositions, mixing open-weight and commercial models via LiteLLM; processed ~1,000 depositions per week.
- Led technical integration of SmartDepo into Rev's platform (auth, infrastructure, observability, scaling) in 4 months.
- Rebuilt delivery on Jenkins, Kubernetes and Terraform, going from 2 deploys per month to multiple per day; added unit tests and database migrations, keeping schemas in sync from local to production.
- Migrated the backend from AWS Lambda to Kubernetes and Terraform for reliability, adding dev and staging environments alongside production.
- Replaced hardcoded secrets with proper secrets management across a system split between 4 vendors (Supabase, Vercel, Azure, AWS).
- Mentored incoming engineers, contractors and QA through a year of heavy team turnover; upheld engineering standards across SmartDepo and Rev Legal through code review.

Staff SWE (Rev Legal) 2023 – 2025

- Led the launch of Legal Essentials, a new high-margin product tier.
- Built checkout and ordering for Rev Legal offerings, handling millions of dollars in orders per year.
- Designed the workflow that turns a marketplace job into a final legal deliverable.
- Developed an editor for legal transcripts and depositions.
- Set up checkout and workflow analytics pipelines in Snowflake and Looker.
- Built foundational infrastructure for Legal Live Capture, a real-time streaming editor for documenting legal proceedings; piloted with select customers.

Senior SWE (Freelancer Platform & Editors)

2015 – 2022

- Led development of Rev's four core work editors (transcription, ASR review, captions, subtitles) through Rev's ~10x revenue growth.
- Scaled the editors to tens of thousands of freelancers transcribing millions of minutes of audio, with autosave every second.
- Built freelancer marketplace tools: application process, earnings and performance dashboards, rating and quality control.
- Migrated a significant share of services from .NET Framework to .NET Core as part of a year-long company-wide migration.
- Owned the multi-caption selection epic end to end, from technical approach to coordinating other engineers' contributions; mentored newer engineers through code review and pairing.

StaunchRobots

Medellín · 2012 – 2013

Co-founder

- Co-founded a Rails development shop with a US-based partner and relocated to Medellín, Colombia. Led engineering while my partner ran sales, clients and operations.
- Built an international team of up to 7 engineers from Colombia, Brazil, Russia, Romania and the US, working from our Medellín office and remotely. Recruited developers from Brazil.
- Worked full-time as a senior Rails engineer, embedded in US clients' teams (BigBinary, Verdacom, TruckingOffice).
- Trained new hires in Ruby and Rails and mentored the team on engineering problems. Ran a free Ruby course for 5 aspiring developers.

Early Career

Self-employed / Freelance

Russia · 2009 – 2012

- Developed bespoke project management tool for arbel-designs.com.
- Built data crawlers and analytics pipelines at Visual Systems Research Group (VSRG).
- Developed CV application tool and file conversion service at Jobstar.se.
- Application design, maintenance and upgrade for Ruby projects at railsrescue.com.

Web Developer (employed)

Russia · 2007 – 2011

- Built bespoke auctions platform on top of Magento e-commerce solution for bstock.com.
- Developed e-commerce websites and modules using Magento e-commerce framework, bespoke plugins for WordPress platform, Zend Framework, PHP, MySQL at oggetto.team.
- Developed admin panel and spellchecking solution for WebMail product at afterlogic.com.

EDUCATION

Southern Federal University, Taganrog, Russia — Computer Science

2007 – 2011

PROJECTS

Personal projects:

- [Homelab automation \(shell/infra\)](#) — running a few servers at home and in the public cloud to provide self-governed services for myself and my family. Using Proxmox, Ansible, Grafana, Prometheus, Talos Linux, Kubernetes cluster, Terraform, Tailscale, Cloudflare.
- [Vscod-jump-to-alternative](#) — a VS Code extension to jump between code and test files.
- [Map to Poster](#) — lets you create striking map posters.
- Prize winner: MyGengo API Wrapper contest for [Ruby](#) and [Zend Framework](#).

LANGUAGES

English — Fluent · Russian — Native · Spanish — basic