

CRISTIAN WILGENHOFF

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Staff Engineer with 15 years of experience in JavaScript and TypeScript. Architected global systems for Yum! Brands for 6 years, handling millions of daily orders across multiple markets. I build high-throughput backend services and resolve the architectural rot that slows teams down. As a technical leader, I mentor engineers and foster engineering pride through hands-on IC work and high standards, prioritizing technical strategy over administrative line management.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Backend & Platform:** Temporal, Node.js, TypeScript, Nest.js, Express, GraphQL
 - **Architecture:** DDD, Hexagonal/Clean Architecture, System Audits, Roadmapping
 - **Infrastructure:** PostgreSQL, Redis, DynamoDB, AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform
 - **Leadership:** Engineering Standards, Incident Management, Team Mentorship
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EXPERIENCE

SweatPals — Staff Engineer (Contract) | Jul 2025 – Nov 2025

First Staff Engineer at an a16z-backed Series A fitness platform. Recruited to stabilize a high-growth platform through a comprehensive audit and stabilization roadmap.

- **Strategic Architectural Audit:** Evaluated systemic failures across Product and Engineering; delivered a multi-quarter roadmap focused on stability and security.
- **Organizational Strategy:** Advocated for and established the company's first dedicated Platform function. Influenced the CEO's organizational design to separate foundational stability from product delivery.
- **Incident Management:** Acted as technical lead for critical P0/P1 crises, including a PII security vulnerability. Developed a strategic framework for company-wide incident response.
- **Cultural Advocacy:** Introduced the "5 Whys" methodology and post-mortem templates to shift the engineering culture toward root-cause analysis.

Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, AWS

Yum! Brands — Principal Software Engineer (Contract) | Jul 2022 – May 2025

Joined the global parent company to lead market integrations onto their high-performance payments platform.

- **Critical Payment Integrations:** Built high-throughput payment workflows for Cybersource and Adyen using Temporal for resilient state management.

- **Distributed Systems Reliability:** Implemented self-healing logic and compensation patterns for payment failures.

Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, Nest.js, GraphQL, Temporal, PostgreSQL, AWS

Pizza Hut Digital Ventures — Principal Software Engineer (Contract) | Jun 2019 – Jul 2022

Progression: Senior Software Engineer → Technical Lead → Principal Software Engineer

- **Principal Engineer (Final Role):** Led the global vision for re-platforming PHDV systems, specifically re-architecting the Menu domain to support international scaling.
- **Technical Lead:** Managed the engineering team responsible for the UK market platform, balancing rapid feature delivery with the reduction of architectural technical debt.
- **Senior Software Engineer (Initial Role):** Key contributor to the event-driven platform expansion. Selected for on-site market activation in India to lead the technical integration of region-specific requirements and ensure a successful launch.

Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, Nest.js, GraphQL, Temporal, PostgreSQL, AWS

ENGINE Transformation — Senior Engineer (Contract) | Feb 2019 – Jun 2019

Technical transformation of legacy Node.js services into modern, cloud-native architectures for a UK government marine project.

Red Badger - Senior Software Engineer | Jun 2017 – Feb 2019

Financial Services Consulting delivering high-performance React and Node.js applications for Tier-1 UK banks (HSBC and Santander).

- **Systems Integration:** Engineered microservices for complex enterprise environments, integrating with legacy fraud detection systems, DB2 databases, and LDAP security protocols.
- **Infrastructure & Mentorship:** Architected CI/CD pipelines while upskilling client teams to ensure long-term platform self-sufficiency.

Early Career | 2010 – 2017

Progressive roles at FarmDrop, Contentment, Making Sense, Globant, and Southworks. Foundation in systems engineering and relational database design.

EDUCATION & TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- **Systems Engineering** — National University of Central Buenos Aires (UNICEN), Argentina
- **Additional Tech:** React, Redux, CI/CD (GitHub Actions), Monitoring (Datadog), Testing (Jest, Cypress)