

Nicolaas Defaux

Senior Software Engineer · GenAI · Agentic Systems · Multi-Cloud

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General - Day rate: from £650 · Available: August 2026 · Working: London / Remote / Hybrid

ABOUT

A senior software engineer who acts on his own intent. I set direction, sustain momentum, and bring teams with me – equally at home shipping production AI systems, architecting at the intersection of software and product, or growing engineers across the practice. Inertia doesn't exist in my lexicon.

EXPERIENCE

IBM Consulting

Sep 2021 – Present

Lead Engineer & Servant Technical Lead, GAIL (since 2024) – current senior remit:

My current remit spans architecture, methodology, and contributions to practice. I'm leading the agentic rebuild of GAIL alongside its integration with sister products, driving portfolio-level integration across DWP's AI estate, and setting asset & IP strategy – converting custom builds into reusable agentic capabilities that compound across reuse. I hold a multi-cloud direction (AWS, Hybrid Cloud), apply and shape the IBM Digital Product Engineering Method in delivery, and lead secure-by-design – eliciting the client's security vision, then establishing Bedrock Guardrails and PII-aware patterns as platform constraints the team consumes. Beyond delivery, I interview engineering hires for IBM Consulting, mentor 10+ early-career professionals, and, post-Master's, will take on an interviewer role in the ESA and Early Professional Development programmes; I relish the opportunity to develop and observe talent growth in others.

Generative AI for Learning (GAIL) – Lead Engineer & Servant Technical Lead

2024 – Present

As Lead Engineer and Servant Technical Lead, I lead an engineering team of 5–6 within a wider squad of 12 on this Generative AI MVP for the Department for Work and Pensions. We've delivered six flawless production releases, achieved 100% user satisfaction in the post-launch survey, and a 77% efficiency uplift over the prior authoring process. The work directly underwrote a £10M Nexus contract extension and has sustained 33% gross profit over 15 months – above the practice's squad-led benchmark – with a 10 NPS. I'm currently pioneering the agentic rebuild that will serve as the platform layer for the next generation of client AI products.

Stack: Next.js, TypeScript, Python · AWS Bedrock (Llama), RAG, Bedrock Guardrails · DocumentDB · EKS, Docker.

Apply for a National Insurance Number (NINO) Service – Software Engineer · DWP

2022 – 2023

A COVID-pressure digital transformation for DWP – replacing an antiquated paper-driven process at speed. I shipped Technical Business Analysis alongside a development component for a citizen-facing service handling PII. Surrounded by masters of their craft – the PMs, the engineers, the QAs – I hardened my hybrid software-and-product skill set.

Stack: Next.js, TypeScript, Express.js, Jest, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS.

DWP Client Hackathon – 2nd place against external consultancy competitors

2025

A Generative AI prototype delivered via IBM Garage methodology under a tight timebox, placing 2nd against external consultancy competitors.

Citizen Interaction History (R&D) – Technical Architect

Jan 2022 – Apr 2022

Requirement elicitation with DWP business and architectural stakeholders, delivering the business case and recommendations that led to onward contract procurement.

Earlier delivery: SkillsMatch Profile Generator · GenAI Lighthouse PoC (Tech BA) · COSLA & Solid Web3.0 PoC (2021 – 2023)

TECHNICAL STACK

Languages & runtimes: TypeScript, JavaScript (Node.js, Express, Vue, React, Jest), Python · AI/ML: AWS Bedrock (Llama), RAG architectures, Bedrock Guardrails, agentic frameworks · Data: DocumentDB, PostgreSQL · Cloud & infra: AWS (EKS, Bedrock, IAM, S3), Docker, Kubernetes · Methodologies: IBM Digital Product Engineering Method, IBM Garage, Agile (Scrum, Kanban) · Architecture: Microservices, RAG, agentic, event-driven, secure-by-design.

EDUCATION

MSc Digital Technology Solutions Specialist – Northeastern University	Sep 2024 – Jul 2026
BSc Biology – University of York · 2:1	2016 – 2019
Software Engineering Apprenticeship (Level 5) – Distinction	2021 – 2023

PRACTICE & COMMUNITY

DWP DE&I Officer · AES Early Professional Skills & Capabilities Officer · Public Sector Garage Project Lead · DPE-iX Product × Engineering Training · DWP Architectural Forum contributor · Mentor to 10+ early-career professionals across IBM and DWP.