

# Valentina Baranova

Senior Backend Engineer · Kotlin / Java · Distributed Systems & Integrations

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**Education:** M.Sc. Information Technology, Saint Petersburg State Institute of Technology (2004–2010)

**Languages:** English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Russian (native)

**Open to:** Remote (EST) or hybrid in Buenos Aires · full-time / contract / part-time

## Summary

Senior backend engineer with 10+ years in Kotlin/Java distributed systems and integrations. Shipped platforms handling thousands of events/sec, owned end-to-end delivery from architecture to launch, and built a full MVP from scratch (backend, AI ingestion, frontend).

## Core Skills

**Languages:** Kotlin, Java (8/11/17), Python, SQL

**Frameworks:** Spring Boot, Ratpack, Hibernate, JDBI, Guice

**Data & Messaging:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, Kafka, RabbitMQ

**Cloud & Infra:** AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Jenkins, Spinnaker, TeamCity, Grafana, Kibana

**Architecture:** Microservices, REST APIs, event-driven systems, concurrency, performance

**Leadership:** Tech lead (2 teams), MVP delivery, partner & stakeholder communications

## Experience

**Senior Backend Engineer** · Blue Trail Software · Remote (US client) · Jul 2024 - Sep 2025

- Designed and implemented backend services in Kotlin/Java for a smart home vendor onboarding and product lifecycle platform
- Led integration with external CRM (Salesforce), improving product synchronization and establishing error reporting
- Led integration with AWS Translate to build a flexible internal API with retry policies, real-time metrics, and parallelized translation requests

Stack: Kotlin, Java (21), Ratpack, Guice, JDBI, MySQL, AWS, Docker, Jenkins, Spinnaker

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**Backend Engineer** · ARRIVAL · Tbilisi, Georgia Sep 2020 - Oct 2023

- Designed and operated real-time vehicle telemetry microservices ingesting GPS, speed, and signal streams from a fleet of 1000+ vehicles (simulated and on-road).
- Built the customer-facing signals API (Spring Boot + Kafka + Postgres) backing internal dashboards and partner integrations.
- Delivered a multithreaded signal-emulation service for testing and demos in both real-time and ASAP (replay) modes, enabling QA and product teams to reproduce days of fleet data in minutes.
- Tuned JVM, Kafka consumer parallelism, and Postgres queries to cut average ingestion latency and stabilize throughput under load spikes.

Stack: Kotlin, Java, Spring, Kafka, PostgreSQL, Redis, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Grafana, Kibana

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**Lead Java Engineer** · RTLabs · Saint Petersburg, Russia · Sep 2019 - Aug 2020

- Led a 6-engineer team delivering the MVP of a national government services catalog platform from scratch, owning architecture decisions, sprint planning, and stakeholder alignment.
- Drove the core service-description domain model and storage layer (Postgres - Mongo) supporting thousands of public service definitions with versioning, approval flows, and audit history.
- Shipped the MVP on schedule within the 6-month lead window.

Stack: Java 11, Spring, Hibernate, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Docker, Kubernetes, GitLab CI

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**Java Engineer** · Zed · Saint Petersburg, Russia · May 2015 - Aug 2019

- Developed and maintained a billing platform and a high-throughput SMS / message aggregator serving multiple mobile operators and processing millions of messages per day over SMPP.
- Investigated and resolved production incidents in distributed message flows; introduced Cucumber + Docker-based e2e tests, raising regression coverage of critical paths and reducing release rollbacks.
- Acted as tech lead for 8 months: owned technical comms with operator partners, interviewed candidates, and distributed work across a 3-engineer team.

Stack: Java 11, Spring, Hibernate, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, ActiveMQ, SMPP, Docker, Jenkins

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**PHP Engineer** · Zed · Saint Petersburg, Russia · Oct 2014 - May 2015

- Development and support of the portal with electronic versions of magazines,
- added integrations with payment services.

Stack: PHP, PostgreSQL, HTML, CSS, Javascript

**PHP/Perl Engineer** · Northern Light · Saint Petersburg, Russia · Feb 2008 - Oct 2014

- Built and maintained vertical search portals for IT and pharma clients, and authored Perl crawlers/fetchers/filters for a production search engine indexing millions of documents
- Served as release manager for staged rollouts.

Stack: PHP, HTML, CSS, Perl, MySQL, JavaScript, jQuery, nginx, bash

## Projects

**Cultural events discovery platform** · Nov 2025 – Feb 2026

- Designed and shipped a full MVP end-to-end: Kotlin / Spring Boot backend, Next.js frontend, Postgres data layer, and an AI-assisted ingestion pipeline aggregating events from 20+ public sources.
- Built the AI extraction layer that converts unstructured event listings into a normalized schema (title, venue, time, category, pricing), reducing manual content preparation time by ~85% and enabling the catalog to cover thousands of events with a one-person team.
- Implemented full-text search, faceted filtering, and discovery features across the catalog; made all architecture and product trade-offs solo, from data model to deployment.

Stack: Kotlin, Spring Boot, PostgreSQL, Next.js, AI/LLM-based extraction, Docker