

KLAAS SENAMELA

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER II

Cape Town, South Africa | 063 434 8671 | klaassenamela@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Software Development Engineer II at Amazon Web Services with 4 years of professional experience building, supporting, and improving software systems in large-scale enterprise environments. Specialises in backend-focused software engineering across Java, Python, RESTful APIs, databases, AWS services, and distributed systems.

Experienced in designing, developing, testing, deploying, and operating production services end to end, including on-call ownership. Skilled at diagnosing complex technical problems across distributed systems, working with customers and internal stakeholders, and translating ambiguous requirements into practical technical solutions.

Provides technical leadership within the engineering team, leading project execution from problem definition through delivery, influencing architectural and system design decisions, mentoring SDE I engineers, and driving adoption of engineering best practices.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Backend Software Development | Distributed Systems & Microservices | RESTful API Design & Integration | AWS Cloud Services & Cloud-Native Architecture | System Design & Architectural Decision-Making | Production Support & On-Call Operations | Automation & Operational Efficiency | Technical Leadership & Mentorship | Code & Design Reviews | Agile Delivery & Cross-Functional Collaboration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Development Engineer II (SDE II) – Amazon Web Services

Sep 2024 – Present | Cape Town

- Provide technical leadership and direction within the engineering team, influencing technical strategy, priorities, and implementation approaches.
- Lead the technical execution of projects and initiatives from problem definition and design through to delivery.
- Make and influence architectural and system design decisions, balancing scalability, reliability, maintainability, cost, and operational requirements.
- Drive technical discussions and resolve ambiguity by guiding the team toward effective engineering solutions.
- Mentor SDE I engineers through technical guidance, design reviews, code reviews, knowledge sharing, and technical coaching.
- Serve as a technical escalation point for complex engineering and production challenges, helping engineers identify root causes and effective solutions.
- Review technical designs and implementations to ensure alignment with

engineering standards, architectural principles, and long-term system goals.

- Influence team priorities by identifying technical risks, operational gaps, and opportunities for automation and process improvement.
- Collaborate with product managers, senior stakeholders, and cross-functional teams to shape requirements, project direction, and technical strategy.
- Own team-level technical initiatives and coordinate delivery across engineers, stakeholders, and technical dependencies.
- Drive knowledge sharing and adoption of engineering best practices across the team.
- Represent the engineering team in broader technical discussions and contribute to decisions impacting the service and organisation.
- Continue to design, develop, test, deploy, and support software systems, including participation in on-call operations.

Software Development Engineer I (SDE I) – Amazon Web Services

Sep 2022 – Sep 2024 / Cape Town

- Designed, developed, tested, and maintained scalable backend software applications.
- Developed and integrated RESTful APIs and services.
- Built solutions using Java, Python, DynamoDB, SQL, and other backend technologies.
- Worked with AWS cloud services and cloud-native architectures.
- Troubleshoot complex production issues and identified root causes across distributed systems.
- Analysed technical requirements and translated business problems into software solutions.
- Improved system reliability, performance, scalability, and operational efficiency.
- Wrote unit and integration tests and applied software engineering best practices.
- Worked with databases, data storage, authentication, authorisation, and service integrations.
- Participated in code reviews, technical discussions, design decisions, and Agile development processes.
- Developed automation to reduce manual operational effort and improve engineering productivity.
- Operated effectively in enterprise environments with large-scale systems and complex technical dependencies.
- Held on-call responsibility, supporting production services and driving incident resolution.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages: Java, Python, Ruby
- Backend: REST APIs, API integration, Object-Oriented Programming, Microservices, Software Design
- Cloud: AWS, Amazon S3, Amazon EC2, cloud-based architectures

EDUCATION

BCom Hons Information Systems – University of Johannesburg | 2023

BCom Information Systems – University of Johannesburg | 2020-2022

National Diploma in Electrical Engineering – Tshwane University of Technology | 2014 - 2018

REFERENCES

Available upon request