

Donatus Gwer

Senior Backend Engineer · Systems Thinker · AI-Augmented Developer

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Abuja, Nigeria · Open to Remote & Relocation

PROFILE

Backend engineer with 5+ years building payment infrastructure, financial reconciliation systems, and event-driven SaaS platforms. Founder of GITS, a software agency delivering production systems for African and global markets. Designs systems around failure modes first — idempotency, observability, and resilience are not afterthoughts. Works AI-augmented daily: uses LLMs for architecture review, code generation, test coverage, and documentation. Actively targeting senior backend roles at fintech and globally distributed engineering teams.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend	Python · Django · Django REST Framework · FastAPI · Celery · Async task design
Payments	Stripe · Paystack · Webhook validation (HMAC-SHA256) · Idempotency patterns · Reconciliation engines · Escrow flows
Data	PostgreSQL · Redis · Query optimisation · Bulk operations · N+1 elimination · Data reconciliation
Distributed	Kafka · Event-driven architecture · Celery workers · Exponential backoff · SLA monitoring
Observability	Prometheus · Grafana · Custom metrics · Load testing (Locust) · Structured logging
Infrastructure	Docker · Docker Compose · GitHub Actions CI/CD · Nginx · Render · Vercel · VPS deployment
Frontend	React · Next.js · TypeScript · Tailwind CSS · Framer Motion
AI & LLMs	Daily AI-augmented workflow · Prompt engineering · Claude API · Anthropic SDK · LLM tool use · AI-assisted code review and test generation

EXPERIENCE

- Founder & Lead Engineer — GITS — Gwer Intelligent Tech Solutions2022 – Present
- Founded and operate a software agency delivering production-grade web and backend systems for clients in Nigeria and internationally
 - Architected and shipped 5+ full-stack products including multi-tenant SaaS platforms, payment-integrated marketplaces, and AI-powered chat interfaces
 - Built AI-augmented delivery workflow: use LLMs for architecture review, boilerplate generation, test coverage, and client documentation — reducing delivery time by ~40%
 - Clients include NOTGATE (Nigerian construction firm), Lamed Pharmacy, and multiple FinTech-adjacent startups

Backend Engineer — Founder Project — TxCore (Open Source)

2025

- Built a production-grade distributed payment processing system to demonstrate senior-level fintech backend patterns
- Implemented Redis-backed idempotency key store — prevents duplicate transactions on client retry without DB uniqueness constraint errors
- Built HMAC-SHA256 webhook validation with constant-time comparison (`hmac.compare_digest`) — closes timing attack vector missed in naive implementations
- Designed CSV reconciliation engine using bulk DB fetch and `bulk_create()` — reduces 10,000-row reconciliation from ~10,000 queries to 2
- Kafka event bus decouples API from async workers; Celery settlement worker uses exponential backoff to prevent retry storms
- 29 tests at 83% coverage · Prometheus metrics · Locust load tested at 200 concurrent users · GitHub Actions CI/CD

Full-Stack Engineer — Founder Project — Proova — Revenue Attribution SaaS2025 – Present

- Building a revenue attribution platform for African e-commerce tracking sales across WhatsApp, DMs, influencers, and offline channels
- Designed hybrid deterministic/probabilistic attribution engine combining click-tracking with reference code matching
- Built CSV financial reconciliation pipeline matching bank transactions to tracked attribution events
- Integrated Stripe and Pystack for global and Nigerian market SaaS billing

Backend Engineer — Founder Project — FinOps Operations Console

2024 – 2025

- Built financial operations platform for managing refunds, disputes, and payment investigations at scale
- Implemented multi-tenant workspace architecture with strict data isolation between company accounts
- Built automated refund risk classification engine detecting SLA breaches and flagging at-risk transactions
- Created financial export system for reporting, audit trails, and reconciliation workflows

Backend Developer — Founder Project — Naija Co-op Hub

2025

- Designed backend for cooperative savings marketplace with escrow-backed transaction flows
- Implemented Pystack webhook validation and secure payment workflows
- Built real-time messaging with Django Channels and Redis caching for query optimisation
- Role-based access control across member, admin, and cooperative manager user types

Freelance Backend Developer — ThriftbyZee & Client Projects

2023 – 2024

- Built REST APIs for product listings, filtering, and e-commerce workflows
- Improved page performance by 40% through lazy loading and query optimisation
- Automated CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions; maintained deployments on Netlify and Render

KEY PROJECTS

TxCore github.com/Gwerdonatus/txcore

Distributed payment processing system · Django · Kafka · Celery · PostgreSQL · Redis · Prometheus

- Idempotent transaction API, HMAC webhook validation, CSV reconciliation engine, SLA alert workers
- 29 tests · 83% coverage · load tested at 200 concurrent users · full GitHub Actions CI/CD pipeline

drift-recon github.com/Gwerdonatus/drift-recon

Financial reconciliation system · FastAPI · PostgreSQL · Redis · Nginx · Streamlit

- Production-grade recon pipeline with Docker Compose stack, CI/CD via GHCR, and operational runbooks
- Built to close tech lead skills gap identified after job rejection — documented as senior-level incident runbooks

Proova proova.app

Revenue attribution SaaS for African e-commerce · Django · Stripe · Paystack

- Tracks revenue across WhatsApp, DMs, influencers, and offline channels — built for markets Stripe Analytics ignores

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

B.A. Philosophy

Benue State University · Logic, reasoning, structured problem solving

Certifications

Django Full Stack Web Dev — Udemy
100 Days of Code Bootcamp — Udemy
Responsive Web Design — freeCodeCamp

WORKING STYLE

Designs around failure modes before writing code. Treats observability as a first-class concern. Uses AI tools daily as a force multiplier — not to replace engineering judgment but to increase the surface area of what one engineer can confidently ship and maintain. Comfortable owning features end-to-end across database, API, worker, and infrastructure layers.