

IRINA SAFONOVA

Lead Software Engineer & Solution Architect | Data Platforms, Enterprise Integrations and Practical AI

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PROFILE

Lead software engineer and solution architect with 25+ years of experience building production systems across Russia, Qatar and Finland. Combines hands-on engineering with technical design, moving between SQL and Python implementation, data modelling, enterprise integrations, architecture and delivery as the product requires. Strongest in data-intensive business systems, billing and ERP workflows, legacy modernization and controlled use of LLMs over structured enterprise data.

CORE EXPERTISE

Engineering: SQL Server / T-SQL; Python; data modelling; performance tuning; REST APIs; backend automation

Business systems: Billing and pricing logic; ERP; reconciliation; reporting; client-specific customization; data migration

Architecture: Data-intensive systems; multi-tenant design; ingestion workflows; security boundaries; incremental modernization

Applied AI: LLM integrations; Azure OpenAI and OpenAI; RAG-style access; AI-assisted workflows; applied ML in academic and project work

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 - present **Contract Lead Solution Architect** | *Early-stage B2B SaaS platform (confidential)*

- Defined the target architecture for a multi-tenant data and AI product, including the normalized domain model, ingestion workflows, API boundaries, authentication and tenant isolation.
- Separated deterministic processing from AI inference so business-critical calculations remain reproducible and auditable while LLMs support explanation and investigation.

2024 - 2026 **Technical IT Consultant -> Senior Software Engineer** | *Good Sign Oy, Finland*

- Customized stored procedures, billing logic and data workflows for client-specific requirements on a SQL-centric SaaS platform serving hundreds of customer organizations.
- Designed and implemented SQL-based solutions for complex billing, pricing and integration scenarios; investigated production data issues and improved performance and maintainability.

2017 - 2024 **Business & IT Consultant** | *Self-employed*

- Advised enterprise clients on legacy modernization, data-flow redesign, reporting automation and practical system improvements across multiple domains.

2022 - 2023 **Scrum Master / Adjunct Lecturer** | *LUT University, Finland*

- Facilitated Scrum and guided software engineering student teams through Agile delivery, backlog refinement and requirement clarification.

2012 - 2015 **SAP/ERP Migration Consultant** | *Stroytechkom, Russia*

- Led migration of a factory's core operations from SAP to a local ERP alternative, covering data migration, process remapping and cutover planning around production continuity.

2007 - 2012 **Software Developer** | *Al-Arqam International School, Qatar*

- Built a student assessment and reporting system that reduced report preparation from 3-4 days to approximately 30 minutes.

2000 - 2008 **Team Lead / Software Engineer** | *Giprosvyaz, Russia*

- Led a six-person team delivering an ERP for contracts and projects across ten departments; built CRM integration and automated accounting postings, reducing manual processing by 70%; reporting time fell from about one hour to 10 minutes.

SELECTED ARCHITECTURE AND DELIVERY SCOPE

- Data architecture and modelling: normalized domain models, SQL-centric platforms, data quality and performance.
- Integration and processing: REST APIs, external-system integration, files and event-driven workflows using Kafka / Azure Event Hub where appropriate.
- Cloud and deployment: Azure project experience including Azure OpenAI and Event Hub; AWS project experience; Docker; Terraform working knowledge.
- Engineering delivery: requirement decomposition, backlog design, implementation planning, cross-functional communication and pragmatic modernization without unnecessary rewrites.
- Leadership: four years of team-lead experience, Scrum Master responsibilities and collaboration across engineering, product and business stakeholders.

SELECTED OUTCOMES

70%	10 min	30 min	3 countries
reduction in manual accounting processing through integration and automation	report generation reduced from approximately one hour	school reporting reduced from 3-4 days	production systems delivered across Russia, Qatar and Finland

EDUCATION

M.Sc., Software Engineering & Digital Transformation - LUT University, Finland, 2021-2023 (GPA 4.22/5)
M.Sc., Communication Networks & IT - State University of Telecommunications, 2001-2007
Automated Control Systems for Aircraft - D.F. Ustinov Baltic State Technical University "Voenmeh"
Automated Database Management Systems - Physics & Mechanics Engineering College

CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Certified ScrumMaster (CSM)
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner; AWS Cloud Technical Essentials
- Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate
- Applied machine learning with Python - academic and project experience

TECHNOLOGY PROFILE

SQL Server, T-SQL, Python, PostgreSQL, REST, JSON, XML, Docker, Azure, Azure OpenAI, Azure Event Hub, AWS, Kafka, Terraform, Git, Jira, Confluence, Power BI, SPSS.

LANGUAGES

Russian - native | English - fluent | Finnish - intermediate

WORKING STYLE

I work collaboratively with engineers, validate architecture against implementation constraints and stay hands-on where the team needs me. I can lead technical design, contribute directly to the codebase or combine both. I favour explicit data contracts, clear system boundaries and incremental changes that teams can realistically build and operate.

AVAILABILITY

Open to permanent Lead Software Engineer, Solution Architect, Technical Product Architect and senior data/backend roles, as well as fixed-scope architecture and modernization consulting engagements.