

James Ethan Parker

Software Engineer - Backend | Java · Python · Kafka · Kubernetes · Distributed Systems

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SUMMARY

Backend Software Engineer with 4+ years building microservices, REST APIs, and streaming, event-driven data pipelines (Kafka, Databricks/Spark) at SPS Commerce, a B2B SaaS platform. Ownership of the item management API and exports serving 20,000+ customers daily; delivered a GenAI proof of concept on AWS Bedrock. Scrum Master for two teams, experienced in managing timelines and project execution. Drawn to large-scale, data-intensive systems for streaming, measurement, and analytics, and to applying AI where it creates real customer value.

CORE SKILLS

Languages: Java, Python, Scala, SQL, TypeScript, JavaScript, C#, C++

Backend & APIs: Microservices, REST API design, distributed systems, Jersey, Spring Boot, Django, Flask

Frontend: React, HTML, CSS

Cloud & Infrastructure: Kubernetes, Docker, AWS (ECS, RDS, Bedrock), CI/CD (Azure Pipelines), Terraform

Data & Streaming: Kafka (Confluent Cloud), event-driven architecture, Databricks (Spark, medallion architecture), PostgreSQL, MySQL, Oracle, ActiveMQ

AI/ML: GenAI integration (AWS Bedrock), prompt engineering, AI-assisted development workflows, Claude Code, Copilot

Practices: Code review, unit & behavioral testing, operational stability, dashboards & data visualization, Agile/Scrum (Scrum Master), observability through Grafana and custom alerting (via Slack)

EXPERIENCE

SPS Commerce

May 2022 - Present

Software Engineer

September 2023 - Present

- Ownership of the item management API and exports for the Assortment product, serving 20,000+ customers daily. Along with being a primary reviewer and point of contact for changes in this area of the codebase.
- Spearheaded a streaming, event-driven medallion-architecture data pipeline unifying live Kafka streams (Confluent Cloud) with operational databases: helped design event schemas and 7+ topics; designed and co-built the Java source services and back-fillers feeding the platform.
- Built the pipeline's Databricks transformation layers in Python, delivering a data-intensive dashboard that measures customer data health and statistics, refreshed daily. Primarily used by customer support and designed to become customer-facing.
- Co-built a GenAI proof of concept on AWS Bedrock that suggests product attributes by mapping customer taxonomies to the SPS taxonomy, reaching 70% top-1 and 95% top-2 suggestion accuracy.
- Scrum Master for 2+ years (currently two teams, 8 engineers): communicate project updates, manage timelines, and oversee execution across stakeholders; previously guided a single team through org splits from 15 engineers down to 5.
- Co-designed and drove adoption of a proof-of-concept Agile flow built for the pace of AI-assisted development, partnering directly with engineering leadership; focused on team dynamics and full dev-leadership transparency to enable rapid iteration. This cut issue cycle time and drove an initial 15% increase in stories delivered per sprint.

Associate Software Engineer II

May 2022 - September 2023

- Designed and built greenfield EDI APIs for the Assortment product (Java, Jersey), reducing integration complexity for customers and internal teams.
- Implemented an import process allowing customers to upload item datasheets (or JSON) 10MB or larger through a stream ingestion process paired with an exposed endpoint. This allowed customers to get their items into the system faster and in a more automated fashion with minimal strain on the service.
- Delivered full-stack features across the TypeScript/React frontend and Java backend, including Item detail and search pages on the frontend utilizing endpoints on the backend with custom RSQL search queries.

Partec - Founder / Software Developer

August 2020 - Present

Software consultancy delivering commercial products end to end for small-business clients.

- Sole developer of a desktop and web employee-scheduling product for a multi-location Booster Juice franchisee (Django, Docker, AWS, Telegram integration). Worked closely with the client from requirements through deployment and has been in production since 2020.
- Shipped bug fixes and UI-tooling features in the large codebase of Genfanad, a commercial video game, within an established team's peer-review workflow.
- Built reliable cross-platform (Linux/Windows) file-transfer automation for a law office.

SELECTED PERSONAL PROJECTS

- **Docket Navigator Assistant** - Built a TypeScript MCP server that connects a LLM to Docket Navigator along with the USPTO API, mapping an expert's CV to patent classification codes (CPC) to find ranked litigation leads while flagging potential conflicts, saving hours of work
- **Partec.ca** - company website: Django backend, containerized and hosted on AWS ECS with RDS (MySQL).
- **Data Coil** - Raspberry Pi service that auto-syncs Tesla dashcam clips to a home PC over SMB when the car joins the home network.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- York University - Business and Financial Economics studies, 2015 - 2018
- Self-directed computer science coursework (Codecademy, Udemy, freeCodeCamp), 2018 - 2021