

Nicolae Rotaru

SENIOR BACKEND ENGINEER

Email nyku.rn@gmail.com Location Hoofddorp, Netherlands Work status Highly Skilled Migrant visa (NL)
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ABOUT ME

Experienced backend engineer with 15 years building and scaling Ruby on Rails systems. I have a proven track record of leading complex technical initiatives, solving hard problems, designing scalable solutions, and taking ownership of key projects. Today I focus on application security at GitLab, where I design scan orchestration, security inventory, and large data and CI/CD infrastructure on a high-traffic monolith. I work across the full delivery cycle, from data modeling and GraphQL APIs to performance optimization and safe production rollouts. Known for effective collaboration, active listening, and mentoring teammates, I enjoy taking on leadership roles and driving projects to success through clear technical direction and teamwork.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, React.js
Data & search	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch
APIs	GraphQL, REST API design
Async & infra	Sidekiq, multi-queue background processing, Kubernetes, AWS
Practices	CI/CD, performance optimization, database scaling (sharding & replication), feature-flag rollouts, audit & compliance

WORK EXPERIENCE

09/2025 – Present
Amsterdam, NL

Senior Backend Engineer · GitLab

Security Platform Management team, building security configuration and inventory on GitLab's core Rails monolith

- Designed and shipped the **Security Scan Profiles** capability end to end: data model and migrations, GraphQL API (mutations, status enums), Redis-backed profile mappings, and CI pipeline integration as a job source. This gave teams reusable, centrally managed scan configuration across groups and projects.
- Built **asynchronous bulk-operation workers** for attaching and detaching scan profiles across large project hierarchies, keeping operations non-blocking and reliable at scale.
- Implemented the **Security Inventory attribute system**: bulk add, remove, and replace of categories and attributes across groups and projects, related filtering, and template-based default identifiers.
- Drove **performance and scalability** work, including reducing GraphQL query complexity for the security inventory query and retiring optimization feature flags after rollout.
- Added **audit events** for scan-profile and attribute changes, supporting compliance and traceability.
- Resolved high-impact production bugs across CI/CD config generation, database concurrency, and traversal-ID integrity when moving groups and projects.

Ruby on Rails · PostgreSQL · GraphQL · Redis · Sidekiq · CI/CD

02/2025 – 08/2025
Amsterdam, NL

Software Engineer · Mollie

- Contributed to backend services for Mollie's payments platform in a high-throughput, regulated financial environment.

PHP · MySQL

09/2022 – 01/2025
Amsterdam, NL

Senior Software Engineer · WeTransfer

- Introduced read-replica support in the core application, improving stability and read throughput under peak load.
- Profiled and optimized hot-path database queries, cutting latency across key endpoints.
- Built multi-queue background processing, improving task isolation and throughput.
- Designed and shipped an OpenSearch-based search engine, improving relevance and response times.
- Took on a tech-lead role, driving technical decisions and leading complex cross-functional features end-to-end.
- Mentored engineers and upheld maintainability, performance, and scalability through rigorous code reviews.

Ruby on Rails · MySQL · Redis · OpenSearch · Kubernetes · AWS

04/2021 – 08/2022
Chişinău, MD

Software Engineer · GovPredict

- Optimized the server-side performance of the core application.
- Re-architected search with Elasticsearch, improving accuracy and speed through advanced querying and indexing.
- Strengthened the internal queuing and background processing for higher reliability.

Ruby on Rails · PostgreSQL · Redis · Elasticsearch · Kubernetes

10/2019 – 04/2021
Chişinău, MD

Full Stack Engineer · Mixbook

- Scaled server-side logic to reduce response times and handle higher traffic volumes.
- Drove code quality through reviews and targeted refactoring.

Ruby on Rails · MySQL · Redis · React · AWS

06/2016 – 10/2019
Chişinău, MD

Lead Ruby on Rails Developer · Salt Edge

- Led the backend team and owned the architecture of the core banking API product.
- Designed a transaction categorization service and a secure storage service for users' banking credentials.
- Implemented sharding and replication, improving scalability and reliability of the core product.

Ruby on Rails · PostgreSQL · Redis · JavaScript

04/2013 – 06/2016
Chişinău, MD

Ruby on Rails Developer · FusionWorks (AG Computer SRL)

- Delivered core API features and performance improvements for banking products.

05/2011 – 04/2013
Chişinău, MD

Ruby on Rails Developer · Morebooks! Marketing SRL

- Built and maintained the main product across back-end and front-end.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2009 – 2013
Chişinău, MD

Engineer's Degree in Computer Science

Technical University of Moldova

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue: Romanian

Language	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	Writing
Russian	C2	C2	C1	C1	B2
English	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2

Levels: A1/A2 Basic user · B1/B2 Independent user · C1/C2 Proficient user

STRENGTHS

- **Leadership & organisation:** managerial experience leading a small, high-performing backend team.
- **Communication:** productive collaboration across engineering, support, sales, marketing, and design.
- **Job-related:** architecture and decision-making on core API products; code-quality ownership through reviews; mentoring through team-building and technical presentations.