Thomas Karner

Freelance Software Engineer – Go, Java, PDF & document systems

contact@thomas-karner.com • thomas-karner.com • Vienna, Austria

PROFILE

Independent software engineer specialising in backend services and document processing. I build and modernise systems where correctness and longevity matter – regulated transaction data, digitally signed documents, PDF/A archiving – in Go, Java and TypeScript. Six years of product engineering and requirements work, including a current senior role on the digital archive of Austria's notaries, so I can take a vague requirement all the way to a running, documented service.

WHAT I AM HIRED FOR

Custom backend services: Go, Java and TypeScript APIs, microservices, PostgreSQL, Docker and Kubernetes deployments

PDF & document engineering: PDF/A conversion and validation, digital signatures, long-term archiving, document workflows

Legacy modernisation: Assessing, carving up and migrating grown systems without stopping the business running on them

Requirements & technical consulting: Turning regulatory or business requirements into specifications and an implementable architecture

SELECTED ENGAGEMENTS

gopdfrab – open-source PDF/A library | own product, gopdfrab.voidrab.com 09/2025 – present

- High-performance PDF/A library in Go: standards-conformant validation and conversion for long-term archiving, developed and maintained in the open.

Stack: Go, PDF/A specifications, open-source maintenance

Document reconciliation application | client project 2026

- Automated the matching of document sets that were previously reconciled by hand, including the reporting of mismatches.

Stack: Go, PostgreSQL, Docker

SKILLS

Programming: Java, Go, TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, SQL

Backend & Web: Jakarta EE, REST APIs, microservices, PostgreSQL, Node.js

Infrastructure: Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, Linux

Domain & practice: Requirements engineering, application security, PDF/A and long-term archiving, legacy migration, agile teams

EXPERIENCE

Independent Software Engineer | self-employed 09/2025 – present
Vienna, Austria

- Custom software solutions and technical consulting for clients, in parallel to my employment at NTBS.

Senior Software & Requirements Engineer | NTBS GmbH 07/2022 – present
Vienna, Austria

- Build and maintain the Java-based software Austria's notaries use every day, from requirements through to production operation.
- Requirements engineering for new features: turn legal and customer requirements into specifications the development team implements directly.

- Design services around strict security and reliability constraints – tamper-evident storage, digital signatures and PDF/A long-term archiving of notarial deeds.
- Coordinate and execute the migration of large legacy systems to modern technologies without interrupting day-to-day notarial operations.

Software Engineer | fiskaly GmbH 07/2020 – 07/2022
Vienna, Austria

- Full-stack engineer in small, self-organised teams shipping fiscalisation services for point-of-sale vendors across Austria and Germany.
- Delivered microservices in Java, Go and TypeScript for tamper-proof recording of cash transactions under Austrian (RKSV) and German (KassenSichV) regulation.
- Built the TypeScript API and web app for digital receipts, taking a product from specification to production release in a fast-moving startup environment.

EDUCATION

MSc IT, Digitalisation and Sustainability | Lucerne University of Applied Sciences | Lucerne, CH 2023 – 2025

MSc Information Systems Management | UAS Technikum Wien | Vienna, AT 2023 – 2025
Double degree: first master's year in Vienna, second in Lucerne.

BSc Information Systems Management | UAS Technikum Wien | Vienna, AT 2020 – 2023

LANGUAGES

German: native
English: professional working proficiency (C1)