Ivan Kulagin

https://kulagin.dev

Fullstack Engineer with 14+ years of experience bridging robust backend architectures, front-end UIs, and DevOps

With extensive experience in the APIs design and building complex systems, I help people to deliver their products to customers regularly, ensuring the changes made won't break anything. This of course involves creating deploy pipeline, create cloud environments, choosing the right tools for the right job. Looking for a full-time remote **Senior Fullstack Developer** position where I can utilize my expertise across the entire stack

The latest version of my CV can be found at https://kulagin.dev/cv/fs.pdf

Languages

Ruby (14+ years)	5
Rust (3+ years)	5
Python (5+ years)	5
PHP (15+ years)	5
JavaScript/TS (first language)	5
PL/pgSQL (12+ years)	4
Elm	4
*sh	4
Clojure	4
Go	4
Java/Kotlin	4
Haskell	3
Erlang/Elixir	2

Databases

PostgreSQL	5
CockroachDB	4
MySQL	4
Redis	4
ClickHouse	2
Elasticsearch	2
MongoDB	2

Devops

Terraform	5
Ansible	5
Systemd (advanced)	5
Netfilter (nf/iptables)	5
Cgroups/namespaces	5
Nomad/Vault/Consul	4
Bare-metal servers	4

IT skills

- **APIs:** The facade of your system, hiding its internal complexity. Everyone wants this facade to be nice for others, and I'm helping people with that
- **Testing:** I have a weighted approach of testing: there's no need in overtest everything (at the beginning for sure), but the critical parts should be tested
- **Refactoring:** This is huge topic, and only following best practices and carefulness lead to success. Sometimes this process takes a lot of time, even if you have detailed plan
- **Data parsing/normalizing:** Probably my favourite types of tasks. I love data manipulation
- **Data scraping:** Watching run logs of hundreds of simultaneous scraping connections really please my eyes
- **Tasks automation:** As a programmer, you always have a mind/hands work to do. Automate repetitive tasks, but only after they become really annoying. Don't automate too early
- **Networking:** Every developer should have experience with building own "Anton". Since the 2007, when I had two, and till now, when I have eight bare-metal servers in my house, I love to practice networking stuff
- **Clouds:** As a freelancer I use clouds from the early AWS days, and my experience grow with each new client. There are huge amount of tools clouds provide, and I have been working with most popular of them. Sometimes building crazy things

Soft skills

- **Self-organization/time management:** Having been a freelancer all my life, mastering planning and time-management is a must
- **Analytical abilities:** Learn yours and others mistakes, track success, make future decisions based on both
- **KISS:** Don't overcomplicate/overengineer, split complex tasks on subtasks, manage one at the time
- **Creativity:** When you experienced with your tools, you can do amazing things with them

Clouds

Google Cloud	5
Heroku	5
AWS	4
Linode	4
Digital Ocean	4
Azure	3

Ai

Agentic engineering	5
OpenAI API	5
Advanced prompt engineering	5
All possible AI integrations	5

Microservices

Nats.io	4
Telemetry	4

Protocols

TLS/TCP/UDP/IP/ARP	5
MTProto (telegram)	4
GRPC	4
Cap'n'proto	4
MessagePack	4
Diameter	4

Cryptography

Block modes theory	5
(A)symmetric cyphers theory	5
Password hashing algos	5

Frontend

Datastar	5
CSS/ TailwindCSS	5
Hotwired	5
Htmx	5
Re-frame	3

Os

FreeBSD	5
Linux	5
MacOS	5

Visuals

After Effects/Photoshop	5
Puml	5

- **Perseverance:** There's always a way to do the thing, but if stuck, try to find another solution with team
- **Problem Solving:** Formulate the problem, that is 80% of solution. Consult with pros, use other's expertise and become better professional
- **Eager to learn/Curiosity:** The more you know, the more ways you can do the task. Always learn something, even unrelated to your main specialization. It's worth it

My dream team

- have the №1 rule in your code is *low in coupling and high in cohesion*
- code review is the only way code become merged to *main*
- love to write tests and that is easy to do, because of rule №1
- don't spend thousands of hours per year on endless daily voice meetings
- have clear requirements and just work, using daily text reports to sync
- prefers self-documenting text communication over voice
- located in US/Europe/Australia/East and Southeast Asia region
- prefer hypermedia-driven approaches like Datastar or HTMX for building snappy UIs without the complexity of heavy SPA frameworks
- understand the importance of a clean API boundary and keeping business logic decoupled from the delivery mechanism
- value end-to-end responsibility, from writing infrastructure as code (Terraform, Ansible) to optimizing database queries and styling with Tailwind CSS
- prefer simple architectures and standard libraries over pulling in heavy dependencies for trivial tasks

Related interests

- **Microcontrollers:** We live at the times when buying NY/Christmas garland is boring, if you have ESP32 (which has WiFi module), few 10x10 plates of ws2812B, and love to solder
- **GTD:** Learning how to manage your own life, how brain works, how it tends to cheat you, etc is a key of success for freelancer

Job log

Please note, these are major jobs I'm proud of. As a seasoned freelancer, I did lots of short-term projects (see my Upwork profile)

Location

Please keep in mind that over the past 12 years, 95% of my clients have been based in North America, so my work schedule is already adjusted to ensure significant overlap with that region. The same applies to Southeast Asia region.

- I can relocate easily — I just need to notify my landlord.
- Preferred regions to live and work: Southeast Asia (especially Malaysia), Georgia (I have a residence permit there), Türkiye.
- From November to May, it gets chilly in Georgia (country), so I usually work and travel during this period.
- This winter, I plan to go to Southeast Asia.

D2

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- Until 2022, I lived in Russia, but I will not return there anymore.
- My current time zone: UTC+4

Human languages

English	B2
Russian	Native
Sweden	Wish to learn, it's beautiful

Desired salary

- My rate is 40$/hour. That's 40h*160h*12m = 76800$ per year (net).
- **I'm totally OK with a 1/2 rate for the first onboarding month**