

MOHAMMAD AL ALI

Technical Team Lead

Technical Team Lead with 4+ years leading engineering teams, combining hands-on technical depth with ownership of delivery and the growth of the engineers around me. Led backend and mobile teams in fintech (STC Pay/STC Bank) and high-growth e-commerce (Jahez). Strong background in Java/Spring, Kubernetes, event-driven architecture, and CI/CD.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

PIF - Public Investment Fund

Technical Team Lead

06/2024 – Present

- Lead a team of 8 engineers, owning technical direction, delivery commitments, and the technical growth of the engineers on the team through mentoring and code review.
- Interviewed candidates and hired 5 engineers onto the team, then onboarded them onto the integration platform.
- Own the end-to-end architecture of the PIF integration landscape, defining integration patterns and standards for applications supporting investment operations and portfolio companies.
- Plan and manage the team's roadmap: break down complex initiatives with product and business stakeholders, identify delivery risks early, and communicate mitigation plans.
- Led the migration from Apigee Edge (on-premise) to Apigee X (cloud), defining the target architecture, migration strategy, and cutover plan without disrupting live integrations.
- Introduced DevOps practices, CI/CD pipelines, and quality gates that streamlined delivery across the integration platform.
- Partner with enterprise architecture and other engineering leads to ensure consistency and shared standards across teams.
- Delivered integrations across diverse enterprise systems: SWIFT, Simcorp, Oracle ERP (EBS + Fusion), SharePoint, Webex, Groq, Azure Speech-to-Text, Microsoft Dynamics, ServiceNow, Cisco ISE, ADFS, WSO2 (CIAM).

STC Pay / STC Bank

Technical Team Lead

03/2022 – 06/2024

Senior Software Engineer

08/2021 – 03/2022

- Led a team of 3 engineers building and owning core platform services for Saudi Arabia's largest digital wallet, serving millions of customers — accountable for technical decisions, quality practices, and on-time delivery.
- Grew engineers on the team through mentoring, pairing on complex problems, and structured code reviews; interviewed candidates and hired 3 engineers onto the team.
- Defined system architecture and technical direction for the platform, producing design documents and integration specifications, and establishing patterns for service communication, security, and data management.
- Redesigned the API gateway by introducing Spring Cloud Gateway, cutting custom development effort by 95% while improving maintainability and standardization.

- Architected and implemented a high-performance distributed rate limiting engine with Redis, handling millions of requests daily while protecting downstream payment services.
- Led the gateway's database migration from MongoDB to PostgreSQL, evaluating trade-offs and materially reducing infrastructure cost.
- Led the marketplace product end to end — defining microservice boundaries, inter-service communication, and data ownership — collaborating with product, design, and QA in a Scrum setup.
- Drove engineering practices across the team: automated testing with Testcontainers, CI/CD with GitLab, containerized delivery on Kubernetes/OpenShift, and production observability.

Technologies: Spring Boot, Spring Security (OAuth2 resource servers & clients), Spring Cloud Stream, Spring Batch, Spring Cache with Redis, Kafka, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch, Keycloak, MinIO/Ceph, Kubernetes/OpenShift, GitLab CI/CD

Monasabh

Technical Co-founder

09/2021 – 09/2023

- Co-founded the company and owned the entire technical function: strategy, architecture, and execution across mobile, web, and backend.
- Hired, onboarded, and managed the development team, setting priorities and delivery cadence from concept to production launch.
- Designed and built the backend with Java and Spring Boot, establishing API contracts, data models, and integration patterns — including payment and notification integrations.
- Operated with startup constraints: rapid iteration, frequent re-prioritization, and shipping under tight timelines.

Jahez

Lead Android Developer

11/2019 – 06/2021

- Led the Android team for one of Saudi Arabia's largest food delivery platforms, delivering features across three customer-facing applications at high traffic and high release frequency.
- Owned release cycles, code review standards, and technical decisions for the team, consistently meeting aggressive delivery timelines in a fast-scaling startup.
- Designed and implemented multi-layered application security: code obfuscation with ProGuard/R8, root detection with countermeasures against bypass tools, and Google SafetyNet Attestation for device integrity — protecting an ordering and payments flow from abuse.

Freelance

Software Developer

05/2015 – 10/2019

SKILLS

Team Leadership	Technical Direction	Hiring & Technical Interviewing	Coaching & Mentoring				
Roadmap Planning & Delivery	Agile (Scrum/Kanban)	Java	Spring Boot	Spring Cloud			
Microservices	Event-Driven Architecture	Kafka	RabbitMQ	Redis	PostgreSQL		
Elasticsearch	API Design	OAuth2	Kubernetes	Docker	Google Cloud	CI/CD	GitOps
Observability	Golang	Python	NodeJs				

CERTIFICATES

Google Cloud Professional Cloud Architect 12/2023 Google Cloud Associate Cloud Engineer 12/2023

Certified Kubernetes Administrator	09/2023	Certified Kubernetes Application Developer	04/2022
Confluent Certified Developer for Apache Kafka	04/2022	Redis Certified Developer	12/2021

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

02/2014 – 08/2019

Imam Muhammed Ibn Saud University — GPA: 4.97/5.0

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI Coding Assistant IDE Plugin

- JetBrains IDE plugin with intelligent code completion, an AI chat interface, and task automation.
- Language server in Golang indexing source files and tracking changes in real time, using gRPC between plugin, language server, and backend services.
- Scalable backend APIs integrated with OpenAI GPT-4o, Claude Sonnet, and self-hosted open-source models on Ollama.

Container Runtime from Scratch

- Container runtime in Golang built on Linux kernel primitives (namespaces, cgroups), with OCI image pulling from registries and copy-on-write layered filesystems.

Programming Language with Virtual Machine

- Object-oriented programming language written from scratch in C, compiled to bytecode running on a custom stack-based virtual machine.

COMMUNITY & CONTENT

Technical courses and content on YouTube — youtube.com/@m-alali-dev

- Software Architecture: The Hard Parts (book walkthrough)
- Containers and Kubernetes fundamentals
- Reliable distributed systems with the transactional outbox pattern (Kafka, Kafka Connect, Debezium)
- Scalable real-time applications with WebSockets, SSE, and Redis Pub/Sub

ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Live Demo Award — Zayed University, Dubai (04/2019)

2nd Place — Programming Jam 5.0, Saudi Arabia (03/2019)

3rd Place Extended / 5th Place Online — Google Hashcode, Saudi Arabia (02/2019)

First in Class — College of Computer Science, Imam University (2014–2019)

Best Graduation Project — Imam Muhammed Ibn Saud University (05/2019)