

Cobus Lombard

Senior .NET Backend Architect – Remote-first – Available via SigmaSoft (ABN entity)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior .NET backend architect with 25+ years of commercial delivery. I design the systems and frameworks other developers build on – integration layers, meta-schema engines, API conventions – the kind of work that makes a team of three move like a team of ten. Recent work spans enterprise payroll integration (MassTransit, Saga State, ESB), a schema-driven SPA modernisation framework (600+ page legacy product), and seven continuous years running my own production SaaS at scale. Available on contract through SigmaSoft; remote-first.

KEY PROOF POINTS

- **78% faster provider onboarding:** Designed a provider-agnostic payroll integration layer at ConnX using MassTransit + Saga State pattern. First provider: ~18 months (platform build). Second provider: 4 months. Same framework, proof of reuse.
- **4 days vs. several weeks per page:** Architected a meta-schema system at ConnX where the backend drives frontend layout, validation, and permissions server-side. First data-intensive showcase page built in ~4 days; estimated weeks by manual approach. Enabled a migration team to work from a single framework rather than hand-coding each of 600+ pages.
- **7-year production SaaS, built and operated solo:** GasKit (LP gas telemetry) has run continuously since late 2018. 300 commercial customers (restaurants, cafes) + 3,000 residential customers across piped-gas estates. Stack: ASP.NET MVC, SQL Server, Azure Functions, Azure Service Bus. No co-founder. No agency.
- **Multi-national team lead, enterprise delivery:** Led 7-developer team across multiple countries for BSG/Lloyds of London – advanced risk modelling system delivered on time.

SKILLS

Backend & Architecture: C#, .NET 6/8/10, ASP.NET Core Web API, Entity Framework Core, MassTransit, Saga State pattern, Enterprise Service Bus (ESB), Azure Service Bus, event-driven architecture, provider-agnostic integration, API-first design, schema-driven systems

Cloud & Infrastructure: Azure (Functions, Durable Functions, Service Bus, App Services, SQL Server), Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, CI/CD (YAML pipelines)

Data: SQL Server (design, query optimisation, T-SQL), Azure SQL

Frontend (supporting): Vue.js / Vue SPA, JavaScript, TypeScript, JSON, REST

AI & Orchestration: LangGraph workflow design, AI-assisted code generation pipelines, QA gate architecture, prompt engineering, guardrails design

Practices: Domain-driven design, test-driven development (unit + integration), Git, Agile/Scrum, technical documentation, API conventions

WORK HISTORY

ConnX, Brisbane

January 2024 – April 2026

Lead Software Engineer

ConnX is a B2B HR and payroll SaaS platform. Joined to lead modernisation of a large legacy product and build a new provider integration capability. Three-person modern-stack team (lead, one mid-level backend, one senior Vue frontend) alongside a larger legacy team. Owned ambiguous workstreams with minimal direction; design decisions reduced rework on both projects and left the platform easy to extend. Mentored junior and senior developers throughout the engagement.

Project 1: Provider-Agnostic Payroll Integration Layer

Designed and delivered an enterprise service bus integration architecture to connect ConnX to any third-party payroll provider via a translation layer. Stack: MassTransit (SQL Server transport), Saga State pattern, .NET 8.

- First payroll provider took ~18 months to onboard – includes designing and building the platform itself.
- Second provider took ~4 months – same framework, reused wholesale.
- **78% faster onboarding on second provider;** framework scales to additional providers without platform rework.

Project 2: Legacy Modernisation Architectural Framework (600+ ASPX pages → Vue SPA + .NET 8 API)

Architected the backend framework the migration team would use to convert 600+ WebForms pages to a modern SPA. Did not execute the page migration – designed the system that makes the migration feasible at scale.

Key architectural deliverables:

- **Meta-schema engine:** Server-side schema defines frontend layout, field validation, and permissions. Frontend renders consistently from the schema regardless of page. Enables custom forms and dynamic pages without per-page frontend code.
- **Unified permission object:** Single, consistent permission model applied across all pages of the application.
- **API endpoint conventions:** Standard patterns documented and demonstrated so the migration team builds to a consistent spec.
- **Showcase delivery:** Built 3 showcase pages to demonstrate the framework and motivate business investment in the modernisation. First data-intensive showcase page completed in ~4 days vs. an estimated several weeks by manual approach.

SigmaSoft, Sunshine Coast (remote)

March 2018 – Present

Founder & Lead Developer

Founded GasKit (gaskit.co.za), a bootstrapped LP gas telemetry and billing SaaS platform. Originally built under Binary Moon Software (SA entity, 2018–2022); IP and operations transferred to SigmaSoft (AU entity) on relocation to Sunshine Coast. Running continuously and profitably since launch.

- **Scale:** ~300 commercial customers (restaurants, cafes) + ~3,000 residential customers in piped-gas estates, metered at premises.
- **Stack (v1/v2):** ASP.NET MVC, .NET Core API, Azure Functions (telemetry + scheduled tasks), Azure Service Bus, Azure SQL Server, Azure DevOps CI/CD.
- Sole employee. Responsible for product design, architecture, development, operations, support, marketing, and finance.
- Transferred IP and operations to Australian entity (SigmaSoft) in 2022.

GasKit v3 (in progress): Engineered a LangGraph-based AI development workflow to orchestrate AI-assisted code generation for a full .NET Web API + React rewrite. Designed the orchestration architecture including guardrails, scoping logic, and three mandatory QA gates: backend unit tests, frontend end-to-end tests, and live system integration tests. Each gate must pass before the workflow advances. The work was orchestration design, not hand-written code: I built the workflow, the QA gates, and the prompting that drives generation.

Sperosens, Pretoria

2014 – 2018

Product Development Manager

Led product roadmap, project scheduling, and software team for a South African technology firm. Managed client-facing delivery for projects spanning .NET desktop, web, and mobile products.

Technologies: .NET, C#, ASP.NET MVC, Web APIs, SQL Server, Xamarin, Windows Services

Sperosens, Pretoria

2011 – 2014

Software Development Manager

Managed a team of software developers building and maintaining scalable, modular software products for enterprise clients including Nedbank and Shoprite/Checkers.

Technologies: .NET, C#, ASP.NET MVC, SQL Server, jQuery

BSG, Cape Town

2009 – 2011

Senior Software Developer

Senior Team Lead for an advanced risk modelling system engagement with Lloyds of London. Led a multi-national team of 7 developers across the full delivery lifecycle.

Technologies: .NET, C#, ASP.NET, SQL Server, Web Services

ComprehendIT, Cape Town

2008 – 2009

Analyst Developer

Implemented document workflow solutions for Naspers.

Technologies: C#, .NET, ASP.NET, SQL Server, XSLT, XML

GijimaAST, Cape Town

2005 – 2008

Senior Web Developer

Co-designed and developed the national stock management system for Shoprite/Checkers. Led development team in latter stages. Travelled to Atlanta, USA for integration testing with vendor systems.

Technologies: .NET, C#, ASP.NET, SQL Server

EDUCATION

MBA – Business Management | GIBS Business School, University of Pretoria | 2015

74% dissertation result; B-average across all subjects. Completed while working full-time in senior management. Dissertation: "Impediments and Enablers of High-Tech Entrepreneurs in South Africa."

NDIP (Information Technology) | Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria (Incomplete)

CERTIFICATIONS

ICAgile Certified Professional · Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist · PRINCE2

REFERENCES

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Available on contract via SigmaSoft (AU entity). Remote-first. Occasional travel for face-time workable. Target engagement: 6–12+ months.