

James Robb

Senior Software Engineer | Software Engineering Leader

Munich, Germany | hello@jamesrobb.dev | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Blog](#) | [Book a call](#)

Available from April 2026 | Remote | Open to travel for workshops and on-sites

Professional Summary

Software engineer and engineering leader with 15 years of experience building full-stack web applications, distributed platform architectures, and high-performing engineering teams across the UK and Europe. Proven track record of scaling engineering organisations (30 to 50+ engineers), driving platform-wide quality transformations (test coverage from <3% to 100% and identified technical debt reduced by 70%+ within one year) for a platform serving 8M+ customers. Additional experience in data engineering, creative coding, data visualisation, and AI/ML integration (custom model training, LLM-powered products, agentic workflows). Built and shipped products across fintech, e-commerce, automotive, aviation, energy, IoT, telecommunications, manufacturing, and healthtech at organisations including DVAG, Cyberport, STIHL, Scandinavian Airlines, BMW, Bosch, Telia, and Porta. Equally effective in UK and German work cultures (English native, German B2/C1).

Core Competencies

Technical

Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, PHP, Python, Rust, Elm, Bash, HTML, CSS, Haskell, C#/F# (.NET Core), Kotlin, Swift, Gleam
Frameworks: React, Next.js, Node.js, NestJS, Express, Fastify, Spring Boot, Symfony, Laravel
Architecture: Microservices, SOA, Monolith, MACH, Hexagonal, Functional Core / Imperative Shell
Cloud & DevOps: Azure, AWS, Akamai Cloud (Linode), Kubernetes, Terraform, OpenTofu, Docker, GitHub Actions, CI/CD
Quality: TDD, SonarQube, PactFlow (CDCTs), Vitest, Storybook, OpenAPI Specifications
Data & Search: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Algolia, Redis, Pandas, ELK Stack
Accessibility: WCAG, WAI-ARIA, Inclusive Design, Compliance Tooling

Leadership

Engineering Management (up to 50 engineers across 5 teams)
Distributed Team Leadership (4+ countries)
Architecture Design & System Rearchitecture
Platform Ownership & Technical Strategy
Technical Hiring & Onboarding
Stakeholder Management & Cross-functional Collaboration
Agile Methodologies (Scrum, Lean, Kanban)
Technical Training & Mentoring

Professional Experience

Software Engineering Consultant

Feb 2026 -- Present

Independent Consulting | Munich, Germany | Freelance

Independent consulting engagements in engineering leadership and full-stack development while seeking the right permanent role.

Engineering Manager & Platform Owner (VPD)

Nov 2023 -- Jan 2026

Deutsche Fintech Solutions GmbH | Munich, Germany | Full-time

Led 5 software engineering teams building the next-generation advisory platform for DVAG (8M+ customers). Functioned as de facto CTO for the VPD platform domain, owning end-to-end technical delivery, team growth, and stakeholder relationships.

- Scaled engineering organisation from 30 to 50+ engineers across distributed teams in Germany, Portugal, Romania, and Moldova
- Drove test coverage from <3% to 100% through TDD training, SonarQube quality gates, type-driven development workshops, and systematic technical debt reduction
- Founded Team Leviathan (Architecture) to rearchitect the system from scratch -- splitting, merging, and creating services while maintaining 100% feature parity with the existing system during parallel development
- Reduced daily deployment failures and outages to near-zero through CI/CD standardisation, quality gates, and defense-in-depth testing strategy including CDCTs via PactFlow

- Conducted regular 1-on-1s with every engineer each sprint, building trust and growth across agency and in-house teams through servant-leadership
- Led architecture review rounds with partners including Deutsche Bank, Generali, and DVAG
- Managed partner agency relationships across 4 countries with quarterly in-person workshops, training sessions, and offsites

React NestJS TypeScript PostgreSQL MongoDB Kubernetes Azure PactFlow Vite Vitest Keycloak GitHub Actions
 Adobe Commerce Matomo OpenAPI

Co-Founder & CTO

Mar 2023 -- Mar 2024

Workops Ltd | London, UK | Self-employed

Co-founded and built an AI-powered recruitment platform with integrated sourcing, relationship management, process tracking, and message automation. Acquired 4 paying clients.

- Built RecruiterGPT, a custom LLM-powered assistant tailored to each client's data and workflows
- Developed the full platform (frontend, backend, infrastructure) end-to-end
- Acquired 4 clients and managed all product, technical, and business operations

TypeScript React Node.js Docker OpenAI API

Technical Engagement Manager / Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2021 -- Jan 2023

foobar Agency GmbH | Munich, Germany | Full-time

Hired to bring Nordic-style engineering culture, leadership, and project management practices to the agency. Led project delivery end-to-end and mentored engineers across the company. Key projects:

Cyberport – Technical Engagement Manager

Nov 2021 -- Jan 2023

Led complete redesign and rebuild of Cyberport's entire product and category search experience across their e-commerce platform. End-to-end responsible for delivery, team leadership, architecture, and stakeholder management.

- Rebuilt the entire search, search results, product pages, and category pages using headless Algolia with InstantSearch.js
- Designed and implemented custom atomic design UI library with Storybook documentation
- Led a cross-company team of 4 engineers (1 data scientist, 1 senior engineer, 1 mid-level, 1 junior)
- Managed AB testing and iterative deployment of the new search experience

React Next.js TypeScript Algolia InstantSearch.js Storybook Docker Redis Vite Vitest

STIHL – Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2021 -- Jan 2023

Built myStihl, a unified customer portal for STIHL's EU markets enabling device management, warranty registration, and service appointment booking. STIHL operates in 160+ countries with 55,000+ servicing dealers worldwide.

- Built platform unifying previously country-specific systems into a single EU-wide application
- Implemented hexagonal architecture for clean domain separation and testability
- Product is live at app.stihl.com with iOS and Android companion apps

React Spring Boot Docker Vite Vitest

Porta – Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2021 -- Jan 2023

Senior engineer on the largest project team (10-15 engineers), building and maintaining Porta's complete e-commerce presence. Architected the products microservice, improved type safety and test coverage, and worked with the discovery team on search topics.

Next.js React Elm Algolia Fastify MongoDB Docker Vitest

Segmüller – Lead Solutions Architect

Mar 2021 -- Apr 2021

Led solutions architecture for Segmüller's Spryker-based e-commerce platform, planning Algolia AI and Analytics integration, resolving index performance bottlenecks, and coordinating across multiple teams.

React PHP Spryker PostgreSQL Algolia RabbitMQ

Technical Co-Founder

Feb 2020 -- Aug 2020

Stealth Startup (HealthTech) | Munich, Germany | Self-employed

Co-founded a fitness-tech startup building a mobile app with custom AI-powered real-time pose tracking for at-home exercise form correction.

- Trained custom pose-tracking ML models on Linode GPU instances for real-time deviation detection via phone camera
- Built full-stack application (React, Node.js, GraphQL, Python) and set up cloud infrastructure
- Achieved 54 pre-launch signups and 62.5% positive feedback from 8 beta testers

React Node.js GraphQL Python PostgreSQL Docker Linode GPU

Senior Software Engineer / Global Accessibility Lead

Sep 2018 -- Sep 2020

Futurice GmbH | Munich, Germany | Full-time

Full-stack engineer delivering projects across Europe, with a concurrent company-wide role as Global Accessibility Lead driving inclusive design practices. Deployments across AWS, Azure, and on-premises infrastructure.

- Spent 8 months in Stockholm building the team and product for Telia Smart Family -- an IoT-integrated family communication app with remote door access, presence detection, and smart home integrations
- Delivered SAS Eurobonus loyalty programme accessibility compliance (WCAG 2.0 AA) after legal action, plus projects for BMW Labs, Bosch PRO360, NIO, and Stadtwerke München
- As Global Accessibility Lead, raised awareness to 50%+ of colleagues company-wide, delivered workshops to ~250 people, and secured multiple accessibility-focused project engagements
- Established internal accessibility working groups across all offices, created certification programme, and built open source compliance evaluation tools
- Mentored junior engineers, contributed to sales proposals, and volunteered as peer mentor coaching on accessibility, architecture, and engineering

React TypeScript GraphQL Elm Node.js .NET Core Python PostgreSQL Docker AWS Azure

Front End Developer

Oct 2016 -- May 2018

Vitafy GmbH | Munich, Germany | Full-time

Developed and maintained e-commerce shops across 4 markets (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, China) plus 11 influencer white-label shops, rebuilding core user journeys on Magento 1.x with React frontends.

- Rebuilt Premium flow, tools flow, brand overview, feedback/NPS flow, product and category pages
- Created 11 white-label shops for influencer partnerships including Daniel Aminati and Sophia Thiel
- Collaborated on new site navigation, search and discovery, purchase flow, and blog implementation

Owner & Web Developer

Nov 2013 -- Feb 2021

James Robb Web Development | Glasgow & London, UK | Self-employed

Independent web development practice delivering end-to-end client projects alongside employed roles. Managed all aspects from sales and project management to design and development.

Additional Experience

Senior Software Engineer & Guest Lecturer

Jan 2023 -- May 2023

IU International University of Applied Sciences | Munich, Germany

Engineering Manager

Jun 2023 -- Aug 2023

Cognigy GmbH | Munich, Germany

Head of Technology

Sep 2020 -- Oct 2020

MyBacs GmbH | Munich, Germany

Software Engineer

May 2018 -- Sep 2018

Community & Open Source

Core Contributor, P5-wrapper – <https://github.com/P5-wrapper/react>

Core contributor to the P5-wrapper project (559+ GitHub stars, ~4,000 weekly NPM downloads), a React component library for integrating P5.js creative coding sketches. Maintain packages on NPM with companion Next.js library.

Technical Writer, DEV Community – <https://dev.to/jamesrweb>

Published 52+ technical articles on algorithms, functional programming, accessibility, Rust, and web development. Promoted to Trusted Member with administrative rights. Authored a 6-part accessibility series.

Author, Manning Publications Co.

Contracted by Manning Publications to author "Rust for Web Developers." Project shelved by publisher but demonstrated recognised domain expertise.

Co-Founder, Munich Accessibility Meetup

Co-founded and organised community meetup (2018-2021) promoting digital accessibility awareness and inclusive design practices.

E.ON Future Home Hackathon -- 1st Place

Won 1st place with Home Care, an IoT fall-detection device that alerts family members and emergency services when a vulnerable person falls. E.ON-hosted hackathon, 2019.

Education

The Open University

2021

Science, Technology and Maths Access Module

City of Glasgow College

2014 -- 2015

HNC Interactive Media -- Web Development

City of Glasgow College

2013 -- 2014

Web Design & Web Authoring

Certifications & Languages

telc Deutsch B1

telc gGmbH, 2025

Information Security

ditis Systeme, 2019

Cyber Security

Hiscox, 2023

Testing JavaScript

Kent C. Dodds / Egghead, 2019

Languages: English – Native (C2) **German** – Professional Proficiency (B2/C1)