

NUWAN KANAKARATHNA

Engineering Leader | Platform Engineering | FinOps | GenAI | Hands-on Builder

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Engineering leader and hands-on builder with 15+ years progressing from senior engineer to Pearson technical specialist, multi-country CTO, and Head of Engineering at Qoria. Scales cloud-native platforms and engineering organizations across EdTech, FinTech, HealthTech, and enterprise systems in Sri Lanka, Australia, APAC, Europe, and the US. Combines platform engineering, FinOps discipline, and GenAI-enabled developer experience with direct coding in TypeScript, Go, Python, and C#/.NET. Based in Colombo (UTC+5:30); experienced leading distributed teams globally.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Engineering Leadership | Head of Engineering | Platform Engineering | Developer Experience | FinOps | GenAI | Cloud Architecture | AWS | GCP | Azure | TypeScript | Go | Python | C# | .NET Core | CI/CD | Terraform | Kubernetes | Kafka | RabbitMQ | PostgreSQL | Agile | Scrum | Organizational Scaling | Cross-functional Leadership | EdTech | FinTech | HealthTech

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of Engineering → Engineering Manager, Platform Experience

Qoria | Australia · Sri Lanka

06/2021 – 07/2026

- Continuous employment within Qoria Group (Octopus BI → Qoria). Progression: Software Development Manager → Head of Engineering → Engineering Manager, Platform Experience.
- As Engineering Manager — Platform Experience (global), led platform, DevEx, FinOps, and GenAI programs to uplift engineering maturity across 200+ engineering professionals — reducing friction, improving delivery predictability, and embedding AI into real workflows.
- As Head of Engineering (Qoria Lanka / Octopus BI), scaled a 25+ person engineering center, raised maturity, and aligned Sri Lanka delivery with Australian product strategy for a global EdTech platform.
- Drove platform experience and DevEx initiatives that reduced engineering friction and improved delivery speed through golden paths, CI/CD, and observability.
- Built transparent FinOps practices — cloud spend attribution, squad-level visibility, and LLM cost telemetry — without slowing product velocity.
- Led GenAI productivity adoption across teams: GetDX, Gemini Code Assist, GitHub Copilot, Rovo, and internal AI-capable bots.
- Established GCP-backed CI/CD, governance, automation, and quality frameworks for resilient multi-team delivery.
- Chaired Execution & Innovation Group across Product, Engineering, Platform, and QA — cutting cross-team friction and improving predictability.
- Owned product and engineering roadmaps across multiple Scrum teams with clear executive visibility into risk and delivery.
- Mentored distributed teams; partnered with finance, legal, HR, and GRC on operational ownership.
- Positioned the Sri Lanka engineering center for strategic global ownership with Australian HQ stakeholders.
- Engineering Manager, Platform Experience (Jun–Jul 2026): global platform/DevEx and engineering-maturity uplift across 200+; role concluded following organizational restructure.

Technology Director | Shareholder | CTO

OS Trio Bhd | Sri Lanka · India · Thailand · Malaysia · UK

02/2019 – 03/2022

- Led technology vision and multi-country engineering across Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Malaysia, and the UK. Scaled the company to operational excellence and successfully handed it over to the parent organization.
- Owned technical direction end-to-end — architecture, engineering execution, platform standards, risk, and growth — moving a regional ERP and data business from startup delivery into a predictable multi-entity platform.
- Set technical vision, opportunities, and risks company-wide — aligning engineering, product, and commercial leadership on one roadmap.
- Directed cross-regional teams delivering enterprise ERP on .NET Core, Azure Event Hub, Azure Data Lake, and related cloud services.
- Built Orbit, a distributed data platform for 100+ business entities — reliable POS/ops data transfer into ERP across regions.
- Designed RabbitMQ pipelines with scheduler and collector services for row-level integrity (MSSQL / MariaDB).
- Established release, quality, security, and multi-country deployment standards across markets.
- Implemented disaster recovery and continuity practices for critical business and customer systems.
- Aligned technology processes with client, legal, and regulatory expectations via international standards and governance.
- Built strategic plans and delivery timelines balancing velocity, cost, and technical debt as the company scaled.
- Partnered with leadership on the operational excellence program that enabled a clean company handover.

Technical Specialist → Senior Technical Specialist

Pearson | USA · Sri Lanka

07/2015 – 02/2019

- Continuous tenure on Pearson core platforms — progressed from Technical Specialist to Senior Technical Specialist owning business-critical product verticals.
- Managed multiple platform verticals essential to Pearson's core business and acted as technical owner for high-scale caching, messaging, and streaming systems used by millions of learners.
- Technical owner for a .NET-backed distributed caching platform — smooth at peak loads of several million users through architecture and performance engineering.
- Technical owner for a RabbitMQ queue platform serving connected systems — terabyte-capacity production clusters with real-time access and customer-specific implementations.
- Led streaming analytics work across Kafka, Storm, Cassandra, and AWS (S3, EMR).
- Key contributor to post-incident reviews — short-term fixes and long-term structural resolutions.
- Rapid Response Team (Denver): production issues across messaging, middleware, cloud, and analytics.
- SME for proprietary and open-source middleware, load balancing, scalability, and performance tuning; recommended engineering best practices for technical deliverables.
- Troubleshoot complex production issues and delivered improvements or engineered solutions; mentored engineers across development, requirements, testing, and documentation.

Engineer → Senior Technical Leader

Duo Software | Sri Lanka

06/2010 – 07/2015

- Continuous tenure from Associate Engineer through Senior Technical Leader — building high-performance platforms for telecom, banking, and enterprise customers across South Asia.
- Grew from hands-on engineer to Senior Technical Leader with architecture, delivery, mentoring, and platform ownership for Duo V5 and customer-critical systems.
- Delivered a 400% increase in data transfer via Go middleware integrating PostgreSQL, Couchbase, Redis, and Elasticsearch for analytics and BI workloads.
- Achieved a 170% application performance gain through distributed caching (Couchbase XDCR, Redis Sentinel, Elasticsearch).
- Built a standalone Go rule engine that compiled graphical workflows into cross-platform executables for business process automation.
- Contributed neural-network queue forecasting models (Matlab, C#, Go) for Digin near-real-time BI / call-center analytics.
- Architected Duo V5 platform/SDK for extensible enterprise apps — forms, designers, on-the-fly customization, and workflows.
- Deployed Couchbase and Elasticsearch clusters for Sri Lanka Telecom with XDCR, replicas, auto-failover, Redis Sentinel, and Nagios.
- Delivered enterprise call-center and subscriber platforms for banking and telecom (including DFCC Vardhana Bank) on .NET, Web API, EF, Go, and Elasticsearch.
- Led regional implementations and performance upgrades across Nepal, Indonesia, and India; mentored engineers and helped hire for Duo V5.

CONSULTING & ADVISORY

Separate from full-time career roles · Part-time, concurrent with primary employment

Consultant & Senior Architect | Insighture | Sri Lanka · Australia · Singapore | 04/2023 – 11/2024 — Cloud architecture, FinOps, and AI/ML delivery.

Senior Architect | Butterfly Systems | Australia | 10/2022 – 03/2023 — Product scale, AWS security, and compliance.

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI Token FinOps Gateway — Go, Next.js, NATS, PostgreSQL: LLM cost telemetry and executive spend dashboard.

Cloud Spend Attribution Platform — Node.js, BigQuery, Cloud Run: billing aggregation, squad attribution, forecasting.

Orbit Data Transformation Platform — .NET, RabbitMQ: multi-geography enterprise data pipeline (100+ entities).

ERP Conversational Assistant — TypeScript, Next.js: natural-language queries over live ERP APIs.

EDUCATION

MBA, Business Management (WES evaluated) | Asia e University | 2021 – 2022

PGDip, Information Security | University of Colombo | 2010 – 2011

B.Sc., Information Technology | SLIIT | 2007 – 2010

CERTIFICATIONS

Introduction to FOCUS | FinOps Foundation | 2026
Data Streaming Engineer — Apache Flink | Confluent | 2026
Foundations of Platform Engineering | Microsoft Learn | 2026
FinOps Certified Practitioner | FinOps Foundation | 2024
IBM Sterling Data Exchange Technical Sales Intermediate | IBM | 2024
B2B Integration SaaS Sales Foundation | IBM | 2024
AppDynamics in Action for Power Users | AppDynamics | 2016
Microsoft Certified Professional | Microsoft | 2014
Server Virtualization with Hyper-V and System Center | Microsoft | 2014

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: TypeScript, Go, Python, C#, .NET Core, JavaScript, SQL, Erlang
Cloud & Platform: AWS, GCP, Azure, Kubernetes, Docker, Terraform, CI/CD, Event Hub, Data Lake
Data & Messaging: Kafka, RabbitMQ, Flink, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, BigQuery, Redis, Elasticsearch
GenAI & DevEx: GitHub Copilot, Gemini Code Assist, Cursor, GetDX, Rovo, Claude Code
Practices: Platform Engineering, Golden Paths, SRE, FinOps, DevSecOps, Observability