

OBED BALOGUN

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Professional Summary

Software Engineer & Engineering Lead with eight years building and scaling production systems. Most recently a product engineer at Search Atlas, shipping the Django, Celery, and LLM-agent infrastructure behind an AI content platform and owning features end to end across backend, frontend, QA, and release. Previously led a team of fifteen engineers at Crop2Cash, where architecture and database work drove a 1,336% increase in user acquisition. Currently Head of Engineering at BottleKing, where a microservice backend redesign has driven $\sim 4\times$ order growth and $\sim 6\times$ revenue growth from 2024 through Aug 2026. Equally comfortable designing cloud-native systems on AWS, GCP, and Azure and aligning technical roadmaps with executives and investors.

Education

University of Ibadan M.Sc. Software Engineering	July 2019 - Feb 2022
University of Ibadan B.Sc. Computer Science	April 2015 - Feb 2018
Educational Advancement Center Cambridge A-levels	June 2013 – July 2014

Work Experience

Senior Backend Engineer → Product Engineer (contract) - Search Atlas

Dec 2025 - Aug 2026

- Built and maintained the Python/Django backend behind Search Atlas's AI content platform — DRF APIs, Celery and RabbitMQ task pipelines, Postgres and ClickHouse — shipping features in production for paying customers across content generation, CMS publishing, and SEO knowledge-graph products.
- Engineered a multi-agent LLM runtime (OpenAI Agents SDK, LiteLLM, MCP tool servers) and drove provider calls onto a unified AI Gateway, standardising model routing, fallback behaviour, and per-call cost/token telemetry across services.
- Hardened async reliability: replaced silent-drop failure paths with a transactional outbox and Celery retry pattern, added failure alerting for content-ingestion crawls, and resolved production data-integrity defects including integer primary-key exhaustion and a save-path field-clobbering bug.
- Owned features end to end as a product engineer — backend, React/Next.js UI, tests, and release verification — after the team's remit expanded from backend-only into QA, product, and frontend delivery.
- Built live end-to-end verification rigs (Dockerised services, real Celery workers and brokers, real WordPress and Wix sandbox accounts) that replaced mock-only testing and caught defects that green unit suites had passed.
- Reviewed teammates' merge requests with adversarial root-cause analysis, blocking regressions pre-merge, and authored the RCAs and status write-ups that translate technical findings for product and support stakeholders.

Head of Engineering(contract) - BottleKing

Sept 2024 - Present

- Spearheaded a complete Node.js backend and database redesign — microservice architecture, AWS services (Redis caching, CloudWatch monitoring, serverless scheduled jobs on Lambda + EventBridge) — driving $\sim 4\times$ order growth (359 → 1,443) and $\sim 6\times$ revenue growth (₦41.5M → ₦251.9M) from 2024 through Aug 2026.
- Integrated and operated the Paystack payment pipeline as the platform's financial source of truth, underpinning $\sim$ ₦473M in cumulative transaction value with automated reconciliation; improved order processing time by 23%.
- Delivered the backend for a full mobile app redesign — short-form video commerce (Discovery Reels), search ranking (Trending/Popular/Recent Searches), a recommendation engine (Frequently Bought Together), Featured Collections, order ratings, phone + OTP authentication, and scheduled delivery windows.
- Integrated third-party systems (HubSpot CRM, Meta Pixel, a Duty Free Catalogue Feed of 850+ products, server-side GA4) and engineered backend-driven promotional campaigns; resolved Cloudflare-flagged vulnerabilities to keep the service stable through the growth above, and scoped a multi-vendor marketplace expansion into Ghana and Zambia.

Engineering Team Lead - Crop2Cash

Aug 2022 - Nov 2025

- Led a team of fifteen (15) engineers, collaborating with executives and investors to align technical roadmaps with strategic business goals, demonstrating technology's vital role in scaling businesses and expanding their reach.
- Redesigned an existing database and improved the codebase to optimize query speeds and reduce downtime, which significantly enhanced the scalability of a USSD application, achieving a remarkable 1336% increase in user acquisition over the course of a year.
- Engineered an AI-powered voice advisory system with multilingual capabilities that democratized agricultural expertise by transforming the extension agent-to-farmer ratio from 1:10,000 to 1:1 through automated toll-free phone consultations.
- Mentored junior developers; fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and engagements in continuous learning within the engineering team. This has contributed to <16% attrition in the engineering department.

Backend Engineer(contract) - Aipidata

Dec 2022 - May 2023

- Designed and built the backend infrastructure of an edutech application utilizing Django to build the API and complementary technologies like; Postgresql, Nginx and Redis.
- Worked in cross functional teams to build the backend features for a human health monitoring application, working closely with designers and frontend developers to create a seamless user experience.

Software Engineer - Crop2Cash

Aug 2021 - Aug 2022

- Directly contributed to revenue generation by writing and improving code for core revenue-generating systems, ensuring scalability and efficiency through collaboration with various team leads and the engineering team.
- Improved server response times of an order management system through the implementation of indexing strategies and query optimization, resulting in a 43% reduction in latency.

Software Developer(contract) - Selorm Nigeria

Oct 2020 - May 2021

- Designed and implemented a dynamic e-commerce web application, resulting in a significant increase in skincare product sales.
- Incorporated a third-party payment service, Paystack, seamlessly into the application's backend to efficiently oversee and manage payments.

Tempo Paper, Pulp and Packaging Limited, ICT Intern, Apr 2018 - Mar 2019

- Designed and built a visitor management portal that allowed admin to log visitors into the system and generate visitor IDs that were printed on tags. Members of staff were notified of visits via email.
- Deployed and maintained the visitor management portal on Windows IIS Server. The server was connected to a private network accessible only within the company.

Skills

Programming Languages — Python, JavaScript, Java

AI / LLM Engineering — OpenAI Agents SDK, LiteLLM, MCP, RAG, OpenRouter, Anthropic API, prompt evaluation and LLM-as-judge

Cloud Computing — Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform, Azure

Testing and Observability — pytest, Sentry, OpenTelemetry, Grafana

Continuous Integration (CI) and Build Automation — Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD

Operating Systems — Windows, Linux

Web Frameworks and Libraries — Django, Django REST Framework, Celery, Flask, Node, React, NextJS

Database Systems — Postgresql, MySQL, MongoDB, ClickHouse, Redis

Image building and Container orchestration — Docker, Kubernetes

Scripting — Bash, Windows PowerShell

Version Control — Git

Office Productivity Tools — Microsoft Office365, Trello, ClickUp, Slack